

BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE
FIRE SOCIETY





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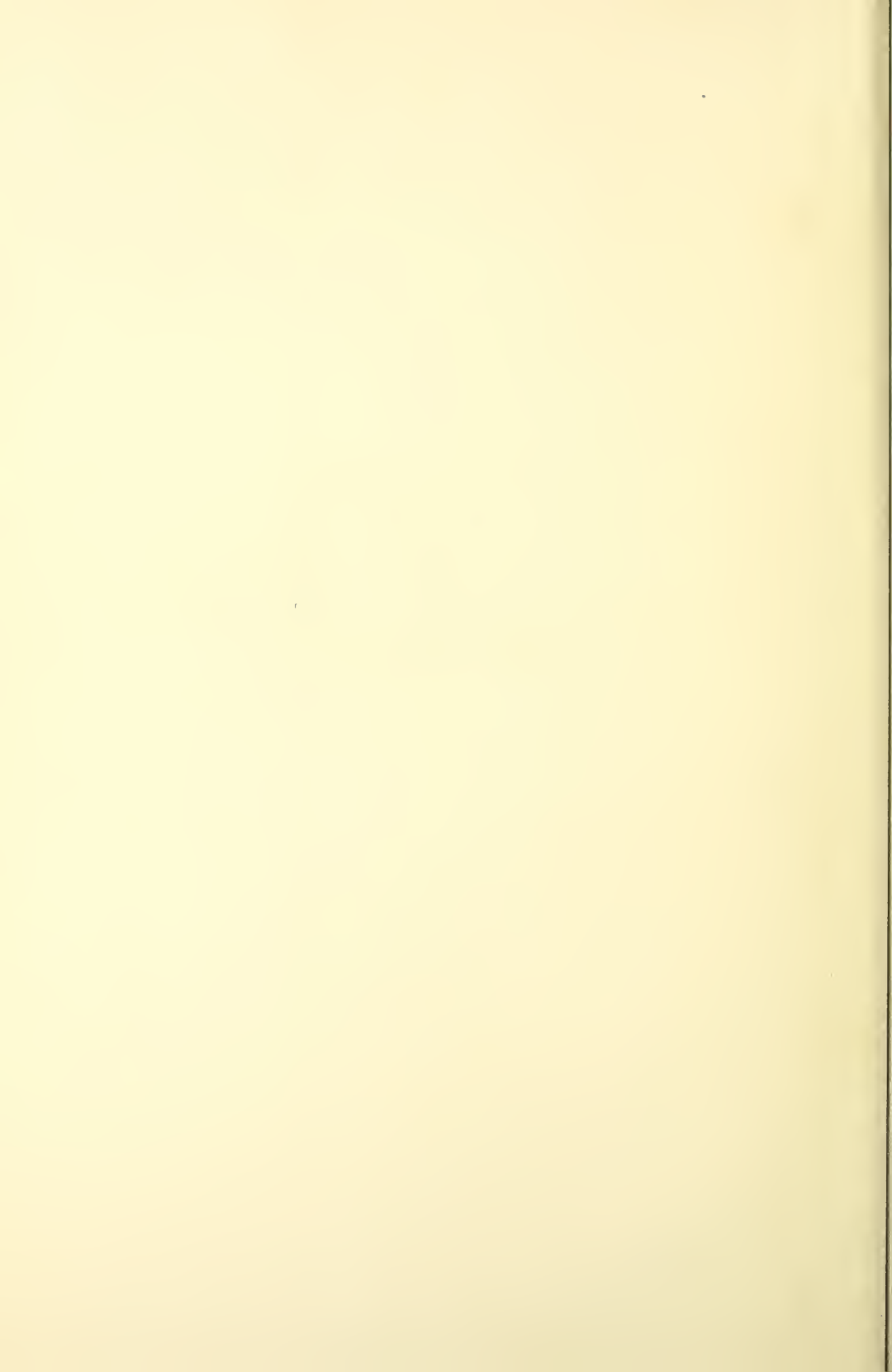


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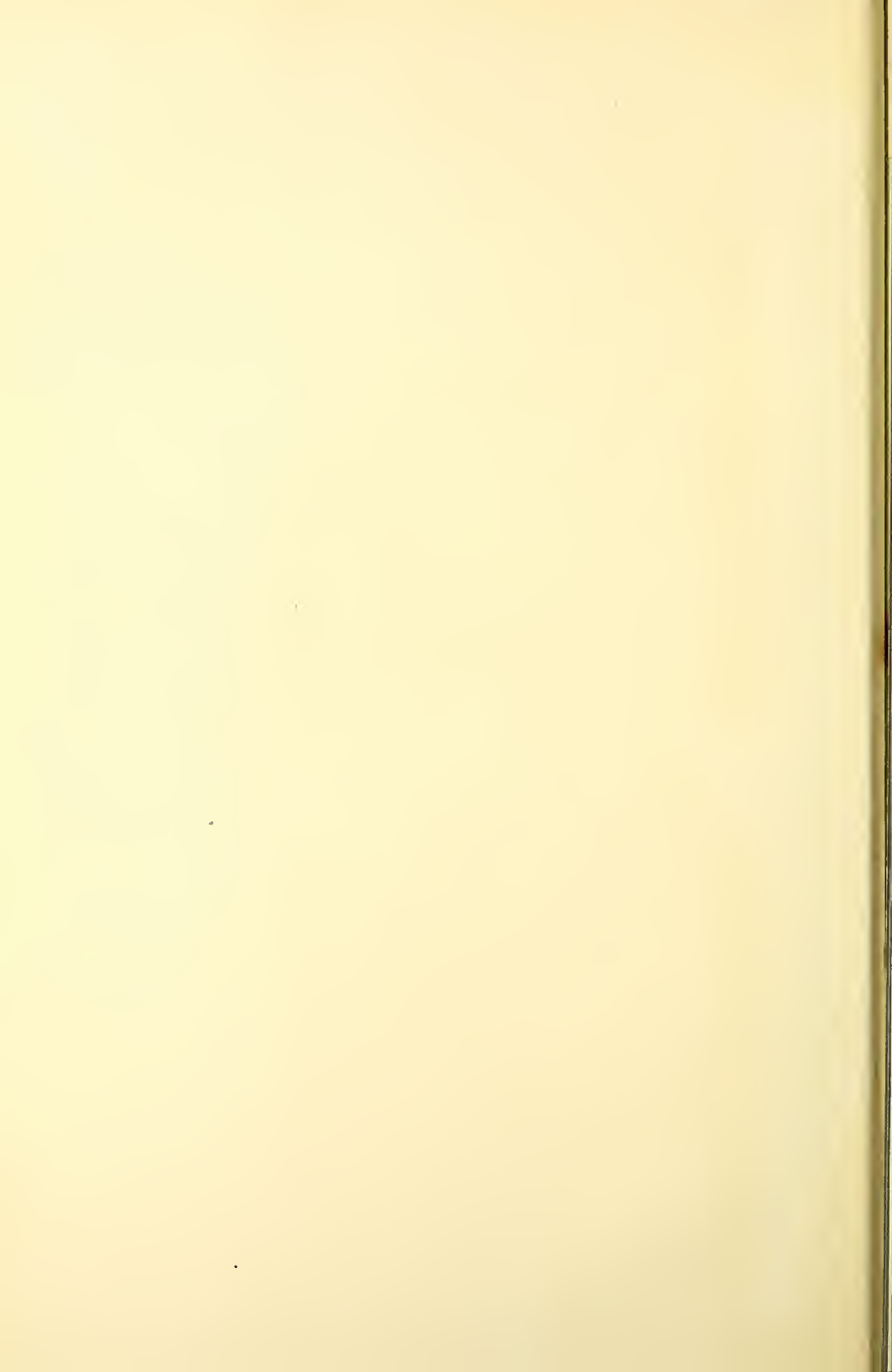
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A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE
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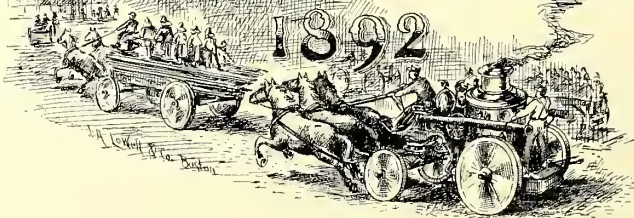


1792

MASS.
CHARITABLE
FIRE
SOCIETY



1892



An Old Boston Institution.

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE
FIRE SOCIETY.

ORGANIZED 1792. — INCORPORATED 1794.

BY ITS SECRETARY,
HENRY H. SPRAGUE.



BOSTON:
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY.
1893.

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University Press :

JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

PREFACE.

THIS volume has been prepared as a Memorial of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY, an old Boston institution which has recently completed the One Hundredth year of its existence.

At a meeting of the Society, held on April 10, 1885, on motion of Frederic W. Lincoln, it was "Voted that the Secretary be requested, under the direction of a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Lincoln, Henry A. Whitney, and George G. Crocker, to compile, at the expense of the Society, a brief history of the Society, with short biographical sketches of some of the earlier and more prominent members." Upon the decease of Mr. Whitney, in the year 1890, Dr. Benjamin A. Gould was made a member of the Committee.

It has not been easy to prepare even a brief account of the organization of the Society, and what it accomplished in its earlier years. The records as kept by the successive Secretaries since the year 1794 have been preserved, but they give few details of the actual work of the Society. A portion only of the printed reports and addresses of the Society have been found, and it is much to be regret-

ted that a collection of these and other papers, which was long carefully preserved, has disappeared, and probably been destroyed. Much that is told has been gained from the files of the old newspapers, and considerable aid has been afforded by other publications of the time. In such research much labor must often be expended with the expectation of but a meagre return.

The material from which the sketches of many of the earlier members have been prepared has also been gained largely from newspaper notices and from other contemporary publications; and some errors were undoubtedly originally made, and others have come from the practical impossibility, in many cases, of verifying the printed sheets by a second reference to the original sources.

In attempting to perform the duty imposed by the Society through its vote, the Secretary has had the cordial co-operation of the Committee, and other assistance in the accomplishment of his task, for which he is deeply indebted.

The public spirit which animated the citizens of Boston a century ago should not be forgotten to-day. They zealously united in the institution of corporations for the promotion of the welfare of the people, and the citizens of the Boston of to-day enjoy the beneficent results of their concerted efforts. If the story of an old Society, which was organized to meet a pressing public need, and so successfully performed its part, shall tend to bring its founders to a grateful

remembrance, and to induce an emulation of their disinterested public service, the Society will be justified in causing the publication of this volume.

An account of the proceedings of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY on the occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of its establishment has been included in an Appendix, and by vote of the Society the Historical Address then given by SAMUEL F. McCLEARY is published as a part of the proceedings.

HENRY H. SPRAGUE,

Secretary.

Boston, September, 1893.

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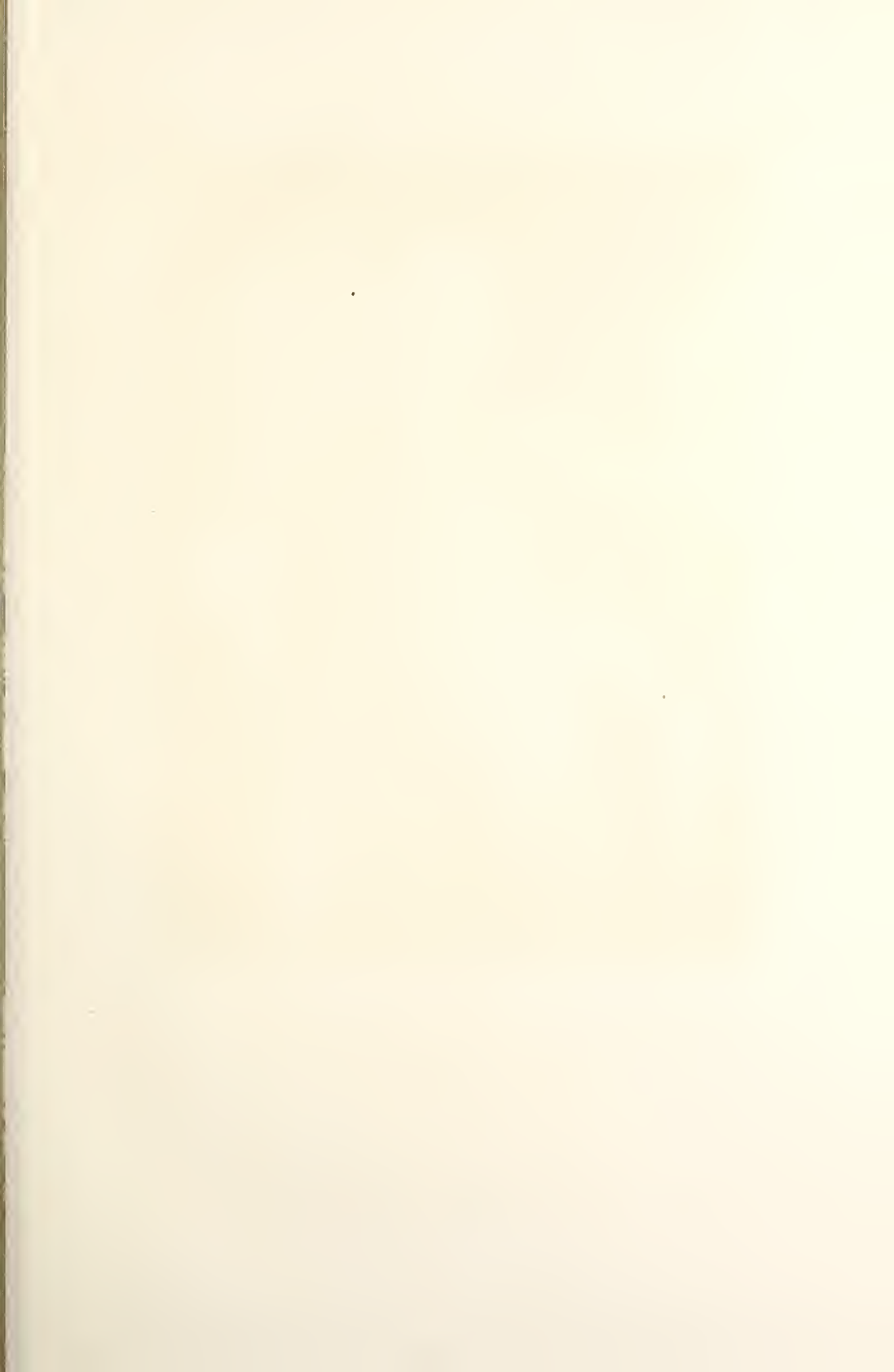
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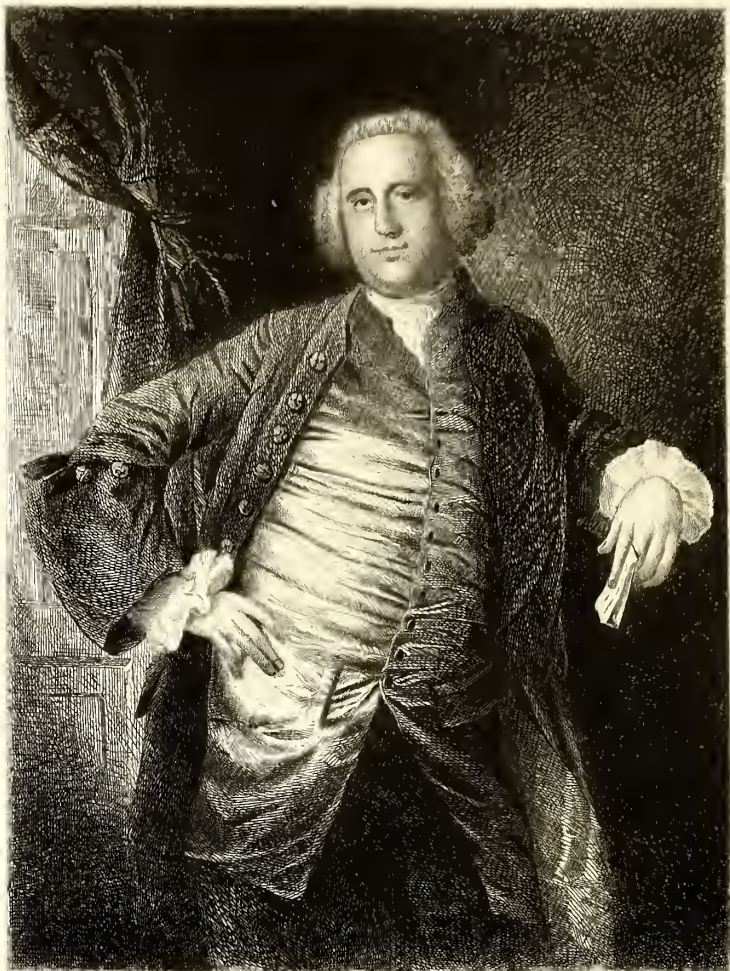
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From the painting by Copley in the possession of Mrs Geo.W. Pratt

Moses Gill

Acting Governor of Massachusetts 1799.

J.H.Daniels, Boston

MASSACHUSETTS

CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

I. PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETIES AND MEN A CENTURY AGO.

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY in its incorporation stands one of the first in the long line of those philanthropic associations for whose establishment Boston has become justly famous. Its organization, begun in the year 1792, was effected in the following year, and the Society was incorporated on June 25, 1794.

The Scots Charitable Society, though not incorporated until the year 1786, had been instituted as early as the year 1657, and had been followed by other organizations of mutual relief for the benefit of special classes of the citizens. Societies of a similar nature were the Charitable Irish Society, founded in 1737 and incorporated in 1809, the Marine Society, incorporated in 1754, and the Massachusetts Charitable Society, incorporated in 1779.

The Quarterly Charity Lecture, whose work began in the year 1720, was by far the earliest of the private charities established for the relief of the general poor. With the closing of the Revolutionary War, however, broader schemes, not only for the assistance of the indigent, but also for promoting the general welfare of the

community, were inaugurated. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was incorporated in 1780, and seven years later the Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Indians and Others in North America. The Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having for its object "the preservation of human life and the alleviation of its miseries," but more especially "the recovery of persons who meet with such sudden accidents as produce in them the appearance of death," was established in the year 1786, and incorporated in 1791. The Massachusetts Historical Society and the Boston Library Society, as well as the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, received their acts of incorporation in 1794; and quickly succeeding them came the Massachusetts Society for the Aid of Emigrants, incorporated in 1795; the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, which was organized in the same year and incorporated in 1806; the Boston Dispensary, founded in 1796 and incorporated in 1801; and the Boston Athenæum, instituted in 1805 and incorporated in 1807.

At no period of its history has Boston had a body of citizens more zealous and devoted to the public weal than at the latter part of the last century. The long war had not exhausted their energies or resources, but had rather served to awaken them to a sense of the various distresses and burdens under which a large part of the community were suffering, and to an enthusiastic purpose not only to alleviate the misfortunes of the people, but also to introduce broader and more enlightened methods for the amelioration and prevention of the ills of society. Foremost in these public undertakings were such men as the Adamses, Samuel and John Quincy, as James Bowdoin, father and son, Thomas

Russell, George Richards Minot, John Warren, Arnold Welles, senior and junior, Moses Gill, Paul Revere, James Freeman, Josiah Quincy, Jeremy Belknap, and others whose names are constantly repeated in the records of that period.

II. THE DANGERS FROM FIRE.

The distressing calamities which had come to the town of Boston from destructive fires, and the constant fear and peril in which the inhabitants stood from this source of danger, induced the citizens to make the relief of sufferers from fire one of their earliest charities, and the prevention of the ravages of fire one of their first philanthropies.

The circumscribed limits and the scanty allotments of lands to its first inhabitants had caused the town to be closely built with dwellings and warehouses, and its streets to be made narrow and tortuous, while its rapid growth and the want of other building materials at hand had induced the almost exclusive use of wood in construction, with little regard for durability or safety. The town was consequently from the beginning peculiarly exposed to conflagrations.

III. EARLY CONFLAGRATIONS.

The accounts of the great fires occupy a large space in the early annals of Boston.

An extensive conflagration occurred as early as the year 1653, destroying many dwellings, and three small children perished in one of the houses. In the year 1676 a fire destroyed about forty-five dwelling-houses,

the North Meeting-house, and several warehouses. Three years later, eighty dwelling-houses, seventy stores, and several vessels were destroyed by a single fire, which was probably set by incendiaries.

In the year 1711 a conflagration which consumed much of what is now State Street and Washington Street, the Town House, and the First Meeting-house, and rendered one hundred and ten families homeless, became pre-eminent as the "great fire," a term which it yielded in 1760 to a fire which consumed one hundred and seventy-four dwelling-houses, one hundred and seventy-five warehouses, shops, and other buildings, and property in all amounting, by careful computation, to 53,334 pounds sterling. By the latter fire two hundred and twenty families were made homeless, three quarters of whom were reduced to poverty. The sum of three thousand pounds was voted by the General Court, and further assistance was called for and received, not only from the other Colonies, but even from London.

Another great fire broke out in the year 1787, burning the Hollis Street Meeting-house, and about a hundred other buildings, many of which were among the most costly in town. For the relief of the sufferers by this fire, who were said to number more than seventy families, Governor Bowdoin issued a proclamation calling upon the people to make contributions. Assistance also came from London, and La Fayette accompanied a letter of sympathy with the sum of two hundred guineas. This fire was quickly succeeded by that of the year 1794, which in the space of two or three hours destroyed seven ropewalks and about ninety other buildings, half of them dwelling-houses.

The great comparative extent of these fires, and the magnitude of the injury done by them, are shown by the fact that in 1794 the number of dwelling-houses in Boston had become only about twenty-five hundred, and the population scarcely nineteen thousand.

Hardly a year passed without considerable losses from fire, and no less than twenty fires had occurred previous to 1795 "so extensive in their desolation as to be selected for the records of history."¹

The destruction by fire in Boston seems generally to have been confined to property, but the reports of the earlier fires contain accounts of the loss of several lives, and many narrow escapes from the flames are narrated. Fewer lives were lost in the later years, but in a fire at the corner of North and Fleet Streets, in 1774, three women and two children who were unable to escape from an upper floor perished in the flames. Other towns were still less fortunate, and their annals tell many instances of fires fatal to life.

IV. THE CONSTANT FEARS OF THE INHABITANTS.

The constant fear in which the people stood from fire is repeatedly described in the newspapers, and in the public addresses and writings of the period. The orators at the early meetings of this Society frequently dwelt upon the overshadowing terror which pervaded the community from this cause, and made it the text of their appeals in the Society's behalf.

Arnold Welles, Jr., used the following graphic language in his discourse to the Society in 1797:—

¹ Address of G. R. Minot to the Society in 1795.

“To be roused from the bed of sleep, at the solemn hour of midnight, by the terrifying alarm of *fire*,—to hurry to the scene;—to see the destructive element urged by the impetuous winds, spreading destruction far and wide;—the glaring illumination;—the victims of its fury, rushing *half clad* from their devoted habitations, clasping to their bosoms their helpless infants, or perhaps lost to themselves, bearing from the general havoc some trifling remnant of their former splendour;—the discordant sounds from the assembled croud, dismayed by its rapid progress, and hardly knowing where to direct their feeble efforts to stay its revengeful fury;—presents an assemblage of horror beyond the power of language to describe. I would this were the picture *only* of a warm imagination, but *you* have too often been the witnesses of its melancholy truth. And can we cast *yet* a darker shade, on this frightful picture of human evil,—perhaps we may,—when the tyrant element has glutted its savage fury, and swept forever from our view, temples consecrated to the Deity, the splendid mansions of the rich, and the humble dwellings of the industrious poor;—the sufferer, received within the roof of some hospitable friend, and surrounded by those who live upon his bounty, *then* busy reflection glaringly obtrudes upon his agitated mind, his *sad reverse*; and the big tears that glisten in his eyes, but faintly speak the anguish of his heart: Or perhaps from the extended chaos he collects, the wretched fragments of his former plenty, left by the destructive element, as it were to insult even his misfortune.”

Said John Quincy Adams, in his address in 1802:—

“Suppose such a society had then existed,” referring to the earlier period, “at this time, you might all, with secure and easy minds, nightly commit yourselves, your property, the children of your love, the wives of your bosoms, to the protection of Providence, without carrying into the arms of slumber, the anxious and too well grounded fear, that before your eyes shall open to the succeeding dawn, all, all may be swept away by the relentless fury of the flames. . . . What these perils are, the experience of the last winter has depicted in colours which the pencil of description could only dilute and weaken. The treasures of commercial

opulence, the shelter of honest industry, the solemn temple of Almighty God, have alternately fallen within the ruffian grasp of insatiate ruin. Would to Heaven this were the worst! . . . Tender mothers! will you forgive me for renewing the pang which thrill'd in your bosoms, when the destroying angel laid his hand upon the helpless innocence of infancy?"

Like portrayals of the ravages of fire were given in the poems read at the anniversary meetings. The following extract is from an ode written by Lucius Manlius Sargent, and set to music and rendered before the Society in 1811: —

“Hark it is the midnight cry —
See the fiery torrent swelling
Round the poor man’s humble dwelling;
List the little infant crying,
See the curling volumes pouring,
View the frantic mother flying,
Hear the beggar’d wretch deploring,
Mark the tear in Pity’s eye.”

A more dramatic description of the desolation wrought by the conflagrations was written by Robert Treat Paine, Jr., and sung at the fifteenth anniversary: —

“Bleak lower’d the morn; — the howling snow-drift blew;
Rude piles of devastation smok’d around,
While *houseless Outcasts*, shivering o’er the ground,
Bade the sad phantoms of their Homes, adieu!

“Ah! mouldering wrecks! ye flit in fearful trance,
And the vision of frenzy recall,
When in horror we leap’d, with a fugitive glance,
From the flames of *yon desolate Wall!*
See, now, with blighting melancholy bare,
Like the monument stone at a sepulchre plac’d,
It weeps o’er this ruinous waste,

As it totters and rocks in the air,
 In vain, sweet pleading Pity calls,
 Or the cry of shrill Terror appals ; —
Bending, beelling, crushing o'er the crouded way,
 Hark ! it cracks ! see, it falls !
 And wretches forget all their griefs in dismay."

V. EARLY PROVISIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF FIRE.

The recurrence of extensive fires caused preventive statutes to be passed by the General Court at a very early date, and severe penalties for their violation were imposed.

A statute for the regulation of building, which is alike interesting in its preamble and in its penalty, was passed in the year 1679. The statute was in terms as follows:—

"This Court having a sense of the great Ruines in Boston by Fire, and hazard still of the same by reason of the joyning and nearness of their buildings; for prevention of damage and loss thereby for future, Do therefore Order and Enact; That henceforth no dwelling house in *Boston* shall be erected and set up, except of stone or brick, and covered with Slate or Tyle, on penalty of forfeiting double the value of such buildings, unless by allowance and liberty obtained otherwise from the Magistrates, Commissioners and Selectmen of *Boston*, or major part of them."¹

The statute was, however, in advance of public opinion, and in the succeeding year the General Court, "considering the present inability of many Persons that have suffered great loss by the late Fire, to rebuild with Brick or Stone," in part retraced its action, and suspended the execution of the law for three years.²

¹ Colonial Laws, p. 269.

² Ibid., p. 278.

But again, in 1683, the General Court ordered : —

“That henceforth no Dwelling-house, Warehouse, Shop, Barn, Stable, or any other Housing, shall be Erected and set up in *Boston*, except of Stone, or Brick, and covered with Slate or Tyle ; on penalty of forfeiting one hundred pounds in Money to the use of the said Town for every House built otherwise, unless by allowance and liberty obtained from this Court, from time to time.”¹

For the further encouragement to build in Boston with brick and stone, according to this law, it was enacted in the year 1684 that,—

“Whosoever shall so Build, shall have liberty to set half his Partition-Wall in his Neighbour’s Ground, leaving Jagges in the Corners of such Walls, for the Neighbours to Adjoyn their Building to ; And that when the same shall be Built unto, the Neighbour Adjoyning shall pay for half the Wall so far as he shall Adjoyn : And in case of Difference that the Select-men have power to appoint Persons to make Valuation, or lay out the Line between such Neighbours.”²

This party-wall statute has been appealed to in recent years, although in vain, to support a custom of building which continued long after the law had ceased to be in force.³

The legislation which had been enacted, however, being found “to Prohibit all manner of Building, or Buildings, though never so small, of Wood or Timber,” the General Court straightway ordered that it should, nevertheless, be lawful “to Erect any small Building ; Provided, it do not exceed eight Foot square, and seven Foot studd, of Wood or Timber ; any Law to the con-

¹ Colonial Laws, p. 307.

² Ibid., p. 309.

³ See 130 Mass. Reports, 317 ; 139 Mass. Reports, 29.

trary notwithstanding: Provided they have the Approbation of the Select-men of said Town.”¹

The Statute of 1692, while providing that no building exceeding these dimensions should be erected otherwise than of stone or brick, and covered with slate or tile, except in particular cases adjudged necessary by the justices and the selectmen, and upon licenses granted by the Governor with the advice of the Council, further provided that any building erected contrary to the act should be deemed a common nuisance, and be demolished.²

The conflagration of 1760, whereby “great desolation hath been lately made by fire in the town of Boston, which hath been principally occasioned by the narrowness of the streets and the houses being built with wood and covered with shingles,” as the law still recited, caused a statute to be enacted prohibiting the erection in the town of any building whatsoever of more than seven feet in height otherwise than of brick or stone, and covered with slate or tiles; and by way of penalty a tax was imposed of twenty pounds per year upon each dwelling-house, and of ten pounds a year upon each other building erected in violation of the statute.³

The successive acts of the General Court would be sufficient proof, without the repeated testimony of the chroniclers of the time, of the fact that, while the general opinion and desire were thus expressed in the statutes, the individual wishes and actual practice of the citizens of Boston were opposed to the law, and no man was ready to attempt to enforce against another a statute

¹ Colonial Laws, p. 327.

² Province Laws, vol. i. p. 42.

³ Province Laws, vol. iv. pp. 379, 380.

which he invariably presumed to violate himself. Seldom was the penalty for the violation of the statute enforced. The buildings erected upon the ruins of the destructive conflagrations were almost always again of wood, and the prohibitory law, with its severe penalties, was well nigh a dead letter.

At the still earlier period of 1652 the severest penalties were imposed against setting fire to buildings and other property. The preamble to the statute of that year is again explanatory of the occasion of the law, and is as follows : —

“Whereas some dwelling Houses and other Houses within this Jurisdiction, have been set on Fire, and the means or occasion thereof not discovered, though some persons have been vehemently suspected to have been Instrumental therein : The Court taking into consideration the danger of such a wicked practice, especially in Towns where the Houses are near adjoining, and there being no Law yet provided for the punishment of so hainous a crime.”

It was consequently ordered that any person sixteen years of age and upwards, who should wittingly and willingly set on fire any barn, stable, mill, outhouse, stack of wood, corn, or hay, or any other thing of like nature, should upon conviction pay double damages to the party, and be severely whipped ; further, that if any such person wittingly, willingly, and feloniously set on fire a dwelling-house, meeting-house, or storehouse, or so set on fire any out-house, barn, stable, lean-to, stack of wood, corn, or hay, or anything of like nature, by which a dwelling-house, meeting-house, or storehouse should be burnt, the party vehemently suspected thereof should be apprehended and committed to prison without bail, and, upon conviction by proof or confession, should

be put to death, and adjudged to forfeit so much of his lands, goods, or chattels as should make full satisfaction to the parties damaged.¹

The severity of the statute was by no means effectual to prevent the malicious setting of fires, and many of the conflagrations seemed to be the work of incendiaries. Nor were the penalties imposed by the Court of Assistants always strictly according to the law as thus laid down. A Frenchman who was suspected of having a part in causing the great fire of 1779, being unable to clear himself of the charge, was sentenced in that year to stand two hours in the pillory, have both ears cut off, to give bond in £500, and then to pay the charges of prosecution! A negro woman, however, who in 1681 had, in revenge for some wrong done her by her master, set his and his neighbor's houses on fire, by which a girl had perished in the flames, was found guilty of the incendiarism, and publicly burned to death in the town.²

In 1711, after the great fire of that year, an act was passed by the General Court for the establishment of firewards, a class of officers who subsequently were vested with great powers. The historical preamble which preceded this act was as follows:—

“Whereas, by reason of the contiguity and adjoining of the houses and dwellings within the town of Boston, persons are under great affrightment and hurry, upon the breaking out of fire, and not only the person in whose house the fire breaks out, but the neighborhood are concerned to employ their utmost diligence and application to extinguish the fire and prevent the progress thereof, and to preserve their substance, by the removal of their goods, being glad of the assistance of others in that regard; and divers

¹ Colonial Laws, pp. 51, 52.

² Brayley's History of the Boston Fire Department, p. 21.

evil minded and wicked persons, on pretence of charitably offering their help, taking advantage of such confusion and calamities to rob, plunder, embezzle, carry away, and conceal the goods and effects of their distressed neighbors."

So for the prevention of these troubles it was enacted that persons, not exceeding ten in number, should be appointed in different parts of the town, to be called firewards, and who, being provided with staffs, five feet long, colored red, and surmounted with bright brass spires six inches long, should upon the breaking out of fires repair thereto, and, with staff in hand, require assistance for putting out the fire, removing goods from the burning building and guarding the same, and, by direction of the chief civil or military officers of the town, should require assistance for pulling down or blowing up buildings, and for suppressing tumults and disorders.¹ The numbers and duties of the firewards were from time to time increased, and the great powers vested in them were freely exercised.

It seems that it was not until about the year 1678 that the first fire engine was introduced, and that a fire company was enrolled. This company was the beginning of those organizations which subsequently became potent factors, not only in the extinguishment of fires, but in politics and in the conduct of the general affairs of the town.

For use in extinguishing fires there were in the year 1794, as stated by a chronicler,² ten fire engines manned by volunteer companies, and placed under the direction of the firewards chosen by the town. Besides these there were four or five private engines.

¹ Province Laws, vol. i. p. 677.

² Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections, vol. iii. p. 248 (1794).

For the more effective rescue of property both from destruction and theft, many of the citizens had enrolled themselves into fire societies or clubs, the first of which was incorporated in the year 1718. The number of these societies in 1796 was stated to be twenty-four, with a membership of about thirty persons each. Each member of these companies was required to provide himself with two leathern buckets, two strong bags, and a bed key; and it was his duty, thus equipped, to repair to the scene of each fire as quickly as possible.¹ Frequently none were allowed to enter the burning buildings except the members of the companies, who were admitted, upon giving the agreed watchword, by a sentry placed at the door.

These societies had also frequent regular meetings at the principal taverns, where dinners and suppers were served, and the promotion of good fellowship and the discussion of general matters were introduced in connection with the more special business of the organizations.

In addition to these means for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, the town from time to time caused many other precautions to be taken. A fire watch was duly established, and in the year 1653 the town ordered that each householder should, under penalty, provide ladders reaching to the ridge of his house, and "a pole of about twelve feet long with a good large swob at the end of it." At a later date each inhabitant was required to provide near the door of his dwelling and warehouse a pipe or hogshead well filled with water, and, still later, each family was ordered to have in readiness for use buckets, swabs, and scoops according to

¹ Address of Rev. John Lathrop, D. D., to the Society, in 1796.

their estates. Strict requirements for chimney sweeping were made, and severe penalties were enforced for the accidental burning of chimneys, while the carrying of burning coals from house to house was in general prohibited.

VI. FIRE INSURANCE.

Fire insurance, to mitigate the losses from fire, was almost unknown up to the time of the organization of this Society. Joseph Marion, who had in the year 1724 introduced the business of marine underwriting, in 1728 proposed, under the name of the "Sun Fire Office in Boston," to insure against fire; but he apparently had little patronage, and his attempt soon failed.

In the year 1785 a petition to the town relative to the establishment of a fire insurance company was referred to the board of firewards, and the town subsequently accepted the report of the board, that it would not be advantageous to have such an institution established.

Previous to the year 1795 it seems that two Philadelphia companies, of one of which Franklin was a founder, were the only ones issuing fire insurance policies, and before that date probably no building in Boston was insured. Contributions for the sufferers in the larger fires were made in the churches, public meetings, and elsewhere, and to a considerable extent there prevailed a system of raising voluntary subscriptions for sufferers by fire, even though they were not in destitute circumstances. Inasmuch as fires were so frequent that it was almost inevitable that the time must come sooner or later to every householder to suffer loss, this was a practice, upon a small scale, akin to mutual fire insurance.

The Massachusetts Fire Insurance Company, for whose incorporation a petition had been made to the Legislature by Thomas Russell and others as early as the year 1785, was incorporated in 1795, with power to insure against fire in dwelling-houses and other buildings, and on wares and merchandise, but not above three fourths of their value. The name of the corporation was changed in 1798 to "Massachusetts Fire and Marine Insurance Company," and the company was given the further power to insure on vessels and merchandise at sea, indicating that fire insurance alone was not sufficiently profitable. The first payments made by this company seem to have been for losses suffered by the ropewalk fire in 1797.

In the year 1798, Paul Revere, George R. Minot, Henry Jackson, and others, owners of buildings, were incorporated as the Massachusetts Mutual Fire Insurance Company, with power to insure for terms of seven years, to an amount not exceeding four fifths of its value, any mansion-house or other building in the Commonwealth "against fire originating in any cause except design in the insured," and to assess among the members damages sustained above their existing funds; but no policies were to be issued until the sums subscribed by the associates should amount to two millions of dollars.

The rates of the Massachusetts Mutual Fire Insurance Company are found quoted for seven year policies at fifty-five cents per hundred on single wooden buildings, and seventy cents per hundred on wooden buildings in blocks, while thirty-five and forty-five cents per hundred were charged respectively on single and double buildings of brick and stone covered with slate or tile,

while in addition deposits of several times the amount charged were required. With such rates it is not remarkable that fire insurance made little progress, and was in fact almost ignored by the public during the first quarter of the century.

The laws of the State, the by-laws of the town, and the customs of the inhabitants were simply expressive of the existing facts and dangers, but they had availed little in suppressing the ravages of fire.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

The peculiar exposure of the town to conflagrations from the character of the buildings, the laxity in the enforcement of the building laws, the want of adequate apparatus for the extinguishment of fire, and the scanty provision made therefor by the town government, as well as the constant impoverishment occasioned by the ravages of the flames and the necessity of relief to the sufferers, all united to make the institution of this Society an undertaking both deserving and demanding the co-operation of the leading members of the community.

A considerable number of the citizens of Boston met on November 20, 1792, for the purpose more especially of establishing a fund, the income of which should be applied, not only to relieve the sufferings arising from the ravages of fire, but also to inaugurate measures for lessening the extent of the evil. The first steps were taken for the establishment of a Society, and a committee

was appointed to draft a constitution for its government. Upon their report a constitution was adopted on January 21, 1793. Meetings were subsequently held from time to time, and in the latter part of the year 1793 especial effort was made to increase the numbers of the Society. An address was issued to the several fire societies of Boston and the adjacent towns, in order to inform them of the organization, and to request their co-operation in the permanent and effectual establishment of the Society. These efforts seemed to be successful in the awakening of a general interest.

On February 6, 1794, a public meeting was held in the County Court House, which was generally attended, and at which committees from several of the fire societies were present. A committee was appointed at this meeting to report a revised constitution for the Society. This committee consisted of George R. Minot, John Lucas, Col. Paul Revere, Col. Wm. Scollay, Arnold Welles, Jr., Joshua Thomas, and Shubael Bell. The committee offered several amendments, and the new constitution was adopted on March 6, 1794.

The government of the Society was authorized, by a vote passed on May 20, 1794, to apply to the General Court for an act of incorporation, which was granted on the 25th of June. The act incorporated, under the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, Moses Gill, George Richards Minot, Oliver Smith, James Freeman, James Bowdoin, William Scollay, John Lucas, and Arnold Welles, Jr., "for the purpose of relieving such as may suffer by fire, and of stimulating genius to useful discoveries tending to secure the lives and property of their fellow men from destruction by that element."



G. R. Minot

The first meeting under the act of incorporation was held in the Senate Chamber of the Old State House in Boston, on the 22d of July, 1794, and the following officers were elected: —

<i>President</i>	HIS HONOR MOSES GILL.
<i>Vice-President</i>	HON. GEORGE R. MINOT.
<i>Treasurer</i>	DR. OLIVER SMITH.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	WILLIAM ALLINE.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> . .	REV. JAMES FREEMAN.

Trustees.

HON. JAMES BOWDOIN,	ARNOLD WELLES, Jr.,
WILLIAM TUDOR,	JOSIAH WATERS,
JOHN LUCAS,	JOSHUA THOMAS,
WILLIAM SCOLLAY,	SHUBAEL BELL.

The constitution was again taken in hand, and a committee to make a further revision was appointed, consisting of William Tudor, Moses Gill, George R. Minot, Rev. Dr. Jeremy Belknap, Rev. James Freeman, John Lucas, and Arnold Welles, Jr. The committee subsequently reported a new draft of "Laws and Regulations," and finally, on the 17th of September, 1794, the Society was provided with a code of government for active operations. The new by-laws were somewhat more specific than the preceding ones, and limited the Society's charity to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To the Laws and Regulations was prefaced the declaration that "The consideration of the numerous advantages which society derives from institutions calculated to direct the principle of benevolence by certain definite objects, hath induced the members of this Society to attempt the relief of such persons belonging to the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts as may suffer by the devastation of fire, and to stimulate genius to useful discoveries tending to secure life and property on such melancholy occasions." To carry these designs into execution, Article I. declared that "It shall ever be the object of this Institution to relieve such of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth as may unfortunately suffer by fire, provided the Society shall think them deserving of their charity; and to reward the industry and ingenuity of those who may invent useful machines for extinguishing fire, or make extraordinary personal exertion in the time of such calamity, or make such discoveries for preventing its devastation as shall be thought worthy of their patronage."

The government having in the year 1795 recommended to the corporation to determine the establishment of the Society to have been on the Friday next following the last Wednesday in May, 1794, (May 31, 1794,) the corporation accordingly passed a vote providing that "the year in which the Society was first organized and the first year of assessment be considered to commence in May, 1794," so that this must be regarded as the official year of the organization.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY.

An early endeavor was made to procure necessary funds and enlarge the membership, and Shubael Bell, Arnold Welles, Jr., Josiah Waters, Joseph Callender, Dr. Stephen Thayer, James White, Joshua Thomas, and Thomas K. Jones were appointed, July 22, 1794, to collect subscriptions. Others were afterwards added to the

committee. The following address, issued by them, and bearing date August 20, 1794, was published in the newspapers : —

“The late incorporated Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, formed for the laudable purpose of relieving the distresses of our fellow citizens of this Commonwealth occasioned by the ravages of fire, considering it of the highest importance that such an institution should be made as general as possible, as well to enable them more readily to extend the hand of charity to every unfortunate individual, as to present to all benevolent citizens an opportunity to contribute towards remedying a misfortune of which they are always liable to become the victims, have chosen a committee of fifteen to extend the subscriptions (which are already respectable) to this valuable institution, the interest of which is to be forever appropriated for the relief of the unhappy sufferers.

“To the Friends of Humanity, who, to the honor of our country, have so frequently stepped forward to wipe the tear from the cheek of affliction, this association is now presented, and as the misfortune proposed to be relieved is such as cannot mislead their benevolence by any impositions, it is presumed that the funds of the Society will become as respectable in their amount, and as effectual in their operation, as the design of it is congenial with the principles of charity.

“The committee will wait on the citizens of this town, and from that liberality which has ever marked the character of Americans they anticipate the most brilliant success.

“Subscriptions from their brethren, in different parts of the Commonwealth, are particularly requested, and will be gratefully received if forwarded by letter to the Rev. James Freeman, the Corresponding Secretary.

“N. B. — The printers throughout the Commonwealth who wish to promote the cause of humanity are requested to publish the above in their papers.”

The great fire of 1794, which happened in a little more than a week subsequently to this appeal, aroused the citizens to a renewed sense of their dangers and to

the necessity of active assistance to sufferers, and the efforts of the committee were successful in securing many subscribers.

It seems that at first all persons subscribing and paying the admission fee were regarded as members of the Society. The original article of membership provided that the application of any person wishing to become a member should be laid before the government, and his name should be recorded, and he should from that time be considered a member. It further provided, that each member should upon admission pay into the treasury one dollar and fifty cents, or such larger sum as he pleased, and at each stated meeting of the Society should pay the sum of fifty cents. Upon incorporation, however, the provision for the payment of fifty cents at each meeting was, evidently in the interest of more frequent meetings, changed so as to require an annual fee of one dollar. No persons were, however, made members by special votes.

In 1823, it was voted that the annual subscription of the members of the Society be discontinued, and in lieu thereof a payment of five dollars on admission was made to constitute membership for life. Though no other change was made until 1849, the practice seems to have begun in 1842 to submit names proposed for membership to the Society for their adoption. A more radical amendment was adopted in 1849, requiring that the name of any person desiring to become a member of the Society should be laid before the Corporation, and upon his receiving three quarters of the votes of the members present and paying the sum of five dollars, his name should be recorded and he should thenceforth be

considered a member. Again, in 1850, it was required that the application for membership should be first submitted to the Trustees, and that the applicant must receive three quarters of the votes of the Trustees, and then three quarters of the votes of the Corporation, in order to become a member.

In the year 1852 the number of members was limited to fifty, and a payment of fifteen dollars was required. A new code of By-laws, adopted in 1861, required that the application for membership must first be recommended by the government and then submitted to the Corporation, and that in either case two dissenting votes should defeat a candidate, while the payment of twenty dollars was demanded on admission. No change in the article of membership was made in the revision of 1876, but in 1880 the number of dissenting votes required to defeat a candidate for admission was made four instead of two, and the membership fee was reduced to five dollars. The requirements now remain as then fixed, except as to some details in the manner of the proposal of candidates.

In 1794, before the Society's incorporation, the names of one hundred and thirty-nine were printed as members. In the following year the list was increased to two hundred and thirty-two, and in 1805 another printed list contains two hundred and eighty-five members. Their subscriptions varied, from the usual sum of one dollar and fifty cents, to sums of fifty dollars each, contributed by Frederick W. Geyer, Patrick Jeffrey, and Hon. William Tudor, and of one hundred dollars each, contributed by Hon. James Bowdoin and Hon. Moses Gill; and the sum of three hundred and thirty-three

dollars and thirty-three cents, given by Hon. Thomas Russell.

Exceptions seem to have been made in favor of two ladies, whose names are enrolled among the members, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowdoin, who subscribed the ordinary fee, and Mrs. Hannah Rowe, who made the liberal contribution of fifty dollars to the funds.

In later years efforts to obtain a large membership were relaxed, and other means than subscriptions were depended upon for increasing the funds. In 1838 the existing membership was only fifty-five, and the number of fifty seems to have been regarded as the maximum long before 1850, when the limitation to that number was placed in the By-laws. Since that date the living membership has varied between forty and fifty. The present living membership (1892) is forty-four, and the entire list of present and past members, so far as can be ascertained, comprises five hundred and ninety-seven names.

IX. THE FOUNDERS AND EARLY MEMBERS.

The men who were associated in the establishment and early direction of the Society were not only active in the charities and philanthropies of their time, and devoted to the promotion of the welfare of the people, but took a foremost part in public and business affairs and occupied positions of honor and usefulness in the community. The names of most of them are still familiar at the present day.

The records do not mention the names of the persons who assembled at the first meeting, on November 20, 1792, nor the names of any of those who attended



James Freeman

and took part in the meetings of the following year. The first names mentioned in the existing records are those of the committee appointed, February 6, 1794, to revise the By-laws. This committee consisted of Hon. George R. Minot, John Lucas, Esq., Col. Paul Revere, and Messrs. Arnold Welles, Jr., Joshua Thomas, and Shubael Bell. The persons named in the act of incorporation of 1794 were Moses Gill, George Richards Minot, Oliver Smith, James Freeman, James Bowdoin, William Scollay, John Lucas, and Arnold Welles, Jr.

MOSES GILL, first named in the act of incorporation and the first President of the Society, was not only a merchant of large prominence and wealth, and an officer in several charitable organizations, but was Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth from 1794 to 1800, and became, by the decease of Governor Increase Sumner in 1799, the acting Governor, a position which he filled nearly a year, and until his death, on May 20, 1800. His decease left the Commonwealth for the only time in its history without a chief executive.

[Born, 1734; died, 1800.]

GEORGE RICHARDS MINOT was the first Vice President of the Society, and in 1800 the successor of Mr. Gill in the presidency, which he filled until his death, in 1802. It would seem that to Mr. Minot more than to any one other this Society is indebted for its organization and successful beginning, and it is certain that no citizen of Boston at the commencement of this century was held in higher respect and honor than he. He was elected Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Represent-

atives upon its organization under the new Constitution, and ten years later, in 1792, became Judge of the Probate Court for the County of Suffolk, a position which he held for many years with distinguished ability. He was in 1799 made a Judge of the Municipal Court of Boston, and in 1801 became the Chief Justice of the court. He published a comprehensive History of Shays's Insurrection of 1786, and he was at the time of his death engaged upon the Continuation, from Hutchinson, of the History of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, the first volume of which, upon its appearance, was declared by President John Adams to be a "model of historical eloquence." The second volume was published after his death. Mr. Minot not only delivered the first discourse before this Society, but he was on several memorable occasions called upon to give public addresses before the citizens of Boston. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of the Marine Insurance Company, Treasurer of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a prominent member of other organizations. John Quincy Adams, in his address before this Society in 1802, highly extolled the virtues of Mr. Minot, who, he said, "as a man, as a citizen, as a magistrate, as a name of high literary eminence, was an ornament to the country which gave him birth."

[Born, 1758; died, 1802; Harvard, 1778. See Memoir by Rev. James Freeman, Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections, vol. viii. p. 86.]

DR. OLIVER SMITH, the Treasurer of the Society from its organization until his death, in 1797, was "a man of

wealth, which he used to diffuse knowledge and promote benevolence.”¹ His efforts for the public good took a wide range. Under his direction much was done toward improving and beautifying Boston Common; he devoted much effort to the promotion of the interests of agriculture; he was an officer in church organizations; and he took a foremost part in establishing the Boston Dispensary for affording medical attendance and medicines for the poor. His business was that of an apothecary and druggist.

REV. JAMES FREEMAN, D.D., the pastor of King's Chapel from 1783 until the failure of his health in 1825, was the first Corresponding Secretary, and held this position for a period of ten years, deeply identifying himself with the work of the Society. Mr. Freeman was one of the first religious teachers and thinkers of New England, one of the earliest and most zealous champions of Unitarianism, and a man of deep learning, of general information, and of great practical wisdom. He was a founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a leading officer of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and generally allied with the prominent philanthropic movements of his day. He also gave much time to more public duties. He was a member of the first School Committee of Boston, chosen in 1792, was for many years a Trustee of the Franklin Fund, and was an influential member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820.

[Born, 1759; died, 1835; Harvard, 1777. See Memoir by W. P. Greenwood, published in Massachu-

¹ Centinel, February 8, 1797.

setts Historical Society's Collections, 3d Series, vol. v. p. 255.]

JAMES BOWDOIN was the first named in the original Board of Trustees, and he not only served the Society as one of its officers, but was a liberal benefactor to its funds. A descendant of the Huguenots, and a son of Governor Bowdoin, he served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in both branches of the Legislature, in the executive Council, and in the Constitutional Convention. In 1804 he was appointed United States Minister to the Court of Spain, and subsequently was one of the commissioners to negotiate a treaty with that country. Upon the foundation of the College at Brunswick, he gave the corporation a large tract of land and a considerable sum of money, and in return for his generosity his name was given to that institution. He was for many years a trustee of that College, and continued towards it a liberal benefactor until his death. He was likewise a member of the Corporation of Harvard College, of which he was a graduate. He took a prominent part in many of the philanthropic societies, and was withal a man of large literary attainments and interests. At his decease, in 1811, the Centinel eulogized him as "a gentleman of the most urbane nature, — a man of science, a patriotic and successful experimentalist, and who filled with dignity and usefulness various public, national, and State offices."

[Born, 1752; died, 1811; Harvard, 1771. See Hon. Robert C. Winthrop's Address at Bowdoin College, in 1852; Rev. William Jenks's Eulogy of James Bowdoin, in 1812.]

WILLIAM SCOLLAY, an original Trustee of the Society, was prominent in business circles, and especially in real estate operations. He took part in the improvement of Franklin Place, now Franklin Street, and in the development of South Boston. From him Scollay Square received its name. He became secretary of the old Massachusetts Fire Insurance Company upon its organization in 1795 as the first insurance company in the State. He was largely interested in Masonic and military matters. He acquired the title of Colonel from his commission as commander of the Independent Corps of Cadets. He was in 1793, and subsequently for several years, a Selectman of the town of Boston. He died in 1809.

JOHN LUCAS, who was a member of the first Board of Trustees, was a wealthy merchant of Boston. He held the position of Commissary of Continental Pensioners, and was also a Selectman of the town. He married a sister of William Dawes, who rode across Boston Neck on the night preceding the 19th of April, 1775, to alarm the country, and joined Paul Revere at Lexington on the morning of the battle.

[Two likenesses of him are to be found in Holland's account of "William Dawes and his Ride with Paul Revere," published in 1878.]

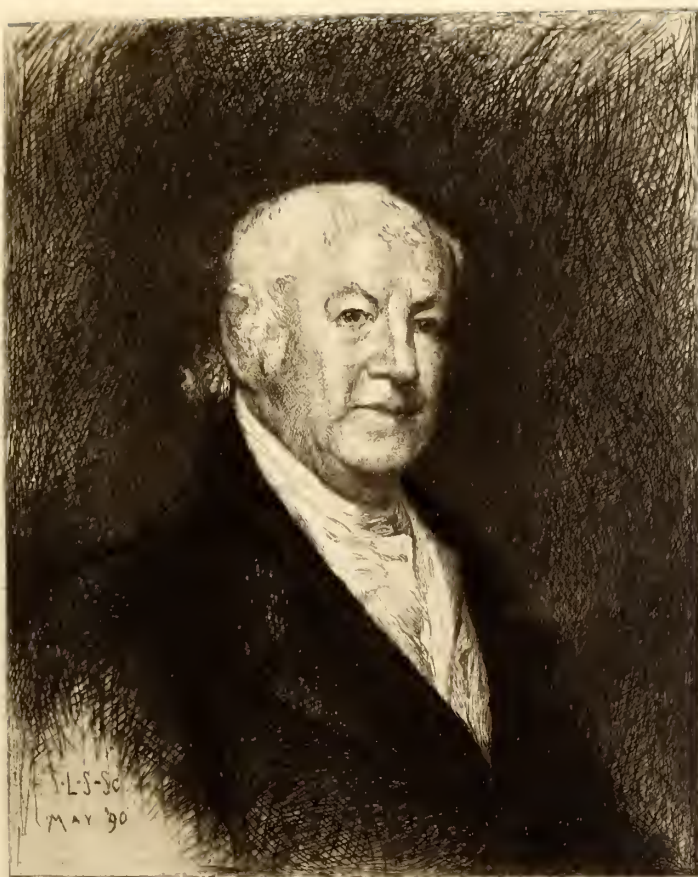
ARNOLD WELLES, known by the title of Junior until the decease of his father, in 1801, served successively as Trustee, Vice President, and President of the Society from its organization until his death, in 1827, and was the orator of the Society in 1797. He was a merchant,

and during the latter part of his life he was president of one of the insurance companies. He found time, however, for literary pursuits, and took much interest in military and charitable matters. He commanded the Independent Corps of Cadets, and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company; and subsequently, upon the reorganization of the Boston militia as a brigade, he was made a Brigadier General of the State militia. He was for many years a member of the School Committee of Boston, and represented the town in the Legislature, and was connected with numerous other societies. He married the daughter of Dr. Joseph Warren, of Bunker Hill renown.

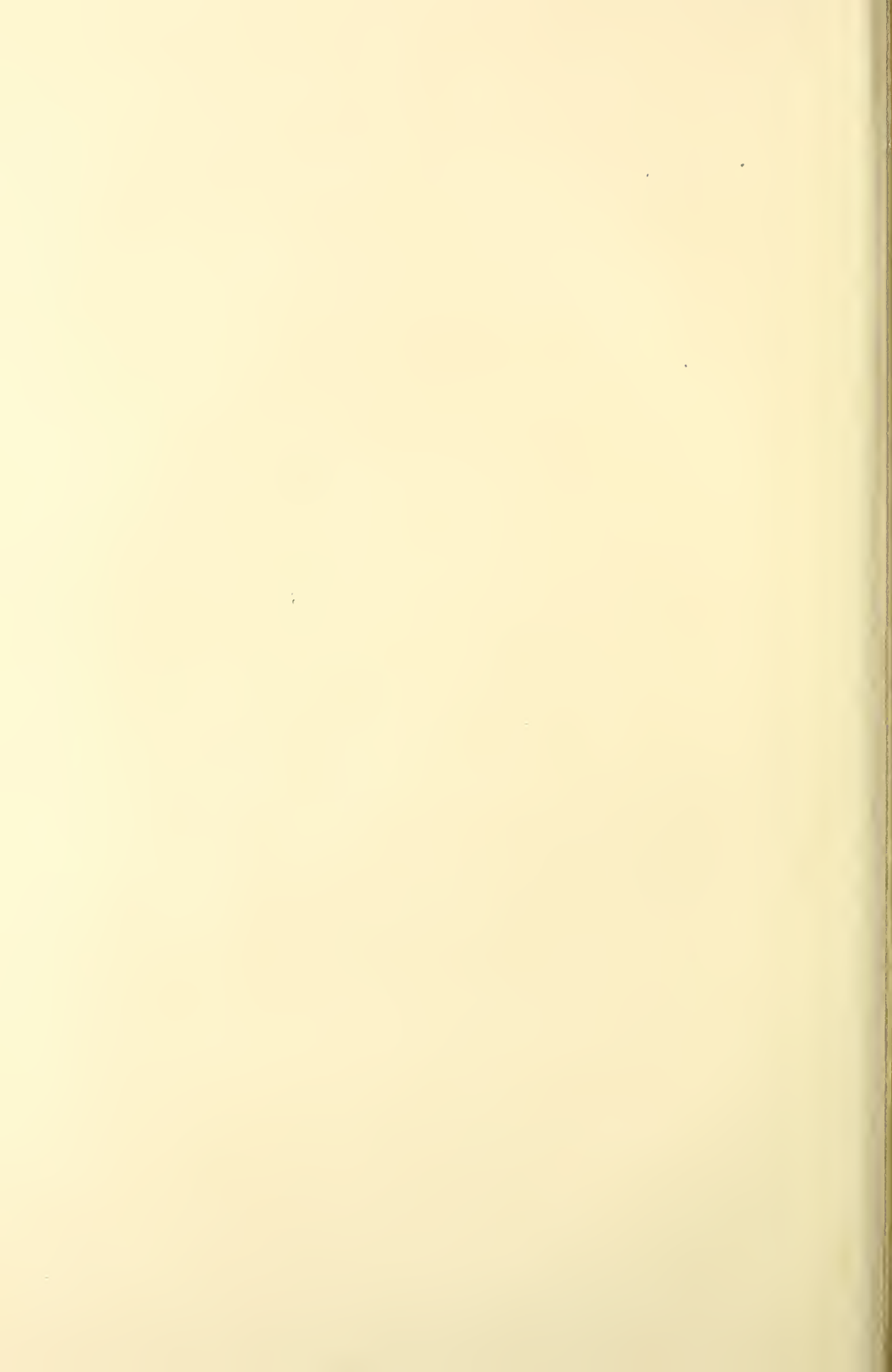
[Born, 1761; died, 1827; Harvard, 1780.]

PAUL REVERE, the skilled and successful mechanic, and the brave and ardent patriot of the Revolution, whose history is too well known to need repetition, was one of the foremost in the organization of the Society. He was appointed on the first Committee on Machines in 1794, and served the Society in that position continuously, with the exception of two years, until his decease in 1818. The *Columbian Centinel* said of him at the time of his death: "During his protracted life his activity in business and benevolence, vigor of mind, and strength of constitution were unabated. He was one of the earliest and most indefatigable patriots and soldiers of the Revolution, and has filled with fidelity, ability, and usefulness many important situations in the military and civil service of his country, and has stood at the head of valued and beneficent institutions. Seldom has the tomb closed over a life so honorable and useful."

[Born, 1734; died, 1818. See *Life of Colonel Paul Revere*, by E. H. Goss, 1891.]



Paul Revere



JOSHUA THOMAS was another of the original Board of Trustees, and active in the organization of the Society, which he served for many years, both as Trustee and as Treasurer. Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he became Aide-de-camp to Colonel (afterward General) Thomas, and subsequently retired to Plymouth, which town and county he represented for several years in both branches of the Legislature. He was appointed Judge of the Probate Court for the County of Plymouth in 1792, and held this office until his death, a period of twenty-nine years.

[Born, 1751; died, 1821; Harvard, 1772.]

SHUBAEL BELL was an original member of the Board of Trustees, upon which he served for a period of twenty-five years, until his decease in 1819. He held the position of deputy sheriff and jailer for the County of Suffolk. He was a zealous member of the Episcopal Church, and contributed largely to the support of Christ's Church, of which he was for many years a warden, and he was chiefly instrumental in establishing St. Matthew's Chapel at South Boston. He likewise held high positions as a Freemason, and was a Captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. He was one of the original members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and was associated with many other charitable institutions, which he served with an active and zealous devotion.

[See Hist. of Ancient and Hon. Artillery Co., p. 351.]

WILLIAM ALLINE, who was the first Recording Secretary of the Society, and held the position for twenty-seven

years, was the Register of Deeds for Suffolk County for almost the same period.

JOSIAH WATERS, known as Colonel Waters, a Boston merchant, was one of the original Board of Trustees. A stanch Whig, he took an active part, in connection with Paul Revere and William Dawes, his cousin, in the events transpiring at the beginning of the Revolution. He was a member of the Committee of Safety, and acted as engineer in directing the building of the forts at Roxbury.

WILLIAM TUDOR, who was one of the original Board of Trustees, and later a Vice President of the Society, was a man of great prominence in the community. He entered upon the practice of law from the office of John Adams, and became eminent as a counsellor. He was appointed a Colonel in the Revolutionary army in 1775, and was attached to General Washington's staff as Judge Advocate General. He was a member of the School Committee of Boston, represented the town in both branches of the General Court, and from 1808 to 1810 was the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Mr. Tudor in 1779 delivered the oration on the anniversary of the Boston Massacre, and in 1798 gave the annual address before this Society. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and at an early date served as its treasurer, and was an active member of other societies.

[Born, 1750; died, 1819; Harvard, 1769.]

JOSIAH QUINCY, whose distinguished service as a party leader in Congress, as the "great Mayor" of Boston, as

Overseer and President of Harvard College, and as historian of Boston and of Harvard University, and whose labors in many other departments of private and public work have made his name illustrious, was a Trustee of the Society from 1796 to 1805, and its orator in 1800; and he lived until 1864, to be the last survivor of the original members.

[Born, 1772; died, 1864; Harvard, 1790. See *Life of Josiah Quincy*, by Edmund Quincy.]

THOMAS DAWES, who was the first named in the original Committee on Machines in 1794, and a liberal patron of the Society, was a leading mechanic, and an active patriot in the Revolutionary period. Later, he was a prominent architect and builder of his time. He was the Colonel of the Boston regiment from 1773 to 1778, and a commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. He frequently, and with great tact, presided at the Boston town meetings, served as an Overseer of the Poor, and with John Hancock and Samuel Adams as Fireward, and represented the town in both branches of the Legislature. He was also a member of the executive Council, and a Presidential Elector of Washington, for both terms, and of Adams.

[Born, 1731; died, 1809.]

BENJAMIN DEARBORN, who served upon the Committee on Machines from 1794, with the exception of a single year, until 1818, and was the author of "Dearborn's Observations," began life as a printer, but early engaged in teaching. He was well known and much respected for his scientific attainments, and had considerable re-

pute as an inventor. As early as 1781 Mr. Dearborn communicated to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences "A Description of a Pump-Engine, or an Apparatus to be added to a common Pump, to answer the Purpose of a Fire-Engine," which he had invented. In this description, published by that Society, he states in reference to an attachment made to his own pump, to be worked by only one person at the brake, "I can myself throw water on the top of a neighbouring building, the nearest point of which is thirty-seven feet from the pump, and between thirty and forty feet high." He seems to have been the first publicly to suggest the employment of convict labor in prisons.

[Born, 1745; died, 1838.]

Rev. JEREMY BELKNAP, D. D., who was a member of the first Committee on Machines, was the pastor of the Federal Street Church. He was a man of great public spirit, and of high literary and scientific accomplishments. He warmly espoused the cause of the Revolution and of the Federal Constitution, was an ardent opponent of slavery, and generally a leader in humanitarian enterprises. He was an Overseer of Harvard College, one of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and was author of many historical works, among which are the History of New Hampshire and an American Biography. At the request of the Massachusetts Historical Society, he delivered, on October 23, 1792, a noteworthy "Discourse intended to commemorate the Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus."

[Born, 1744; died, 1798; Harvard, 1762. See Life of Jeremy Belknap, by his Granddaughter.]

THOMAS KILBY JONES, a prominent merchant and auctioneer of Boston, and a gentleman of liberal hospitality, from the year 1795 until 1832 successively served the Society as Trustee, Vice President, and President.

REV. SAMUEL STILLMAN, D. D., the pastor of the First Baptist Church, was a Trustee of the Society from 1795 for twelve years. He was one of the most popular and eloquent pulpit orators of his day, and was a frequent preacher on public and memorable occasions. He was an ardent patriot, a warm supporter of the Federal Constitution, and a prominent member of the Convention of 1788, which ratified the Constitution in this State. He was one of the incorporators of Brown University, and a member of the first Board of Trustees.

[Born, 1737; died, 1807. See Biography of Samuel Stillman, D. D., by Thomas Gray.]

REV. JOHN ELIOT, D. D., who was for many years, beginning with 1796, a member of the Board of Trustees, was the pastor of the New North Church. He was a deep historical student, the author of a "Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Characters in New England," and of various historical papers, and assisted in establishing the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was an Overseer of Harvard College, and for a long period a member of the Corporation. John Lathrop, Jr., in his Ode to the deceased patrons of the Society, pays Dr. Eliot a warm tribute as "Virtue's gentlest child."

[Born, 1754; died, 1813; Harvard, 1772.]

REV. WILLIAM EMERSON, the pastor of the First Church from 1799 to 1811, was for several years the

Corresponding Secretary, and subsequently a Trustee, of the Society. He was a graceful preacher and a faithful and beloved pastor, and his addresses on public occasions rank among the most finished and refined of the time. He was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Boston Athenæum, and he was likewise an active member and an officer of many other literary and charitable societies. He was the father of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

[Born, 1769; died, 1811; Harvard, 1789.]

MAJOR BENJAMIN RUSSELL, who was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1805 to 1813, began life as a soldier in the Revolution, and on leaving the army established the "Massachusetts Centinel," soon afterwards called the "Columbian Centinel," which he continued to edit and publish for forty-four years, until 1828. Few men held during a long life more public and private positions than Mr. Russell. He was a commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and a high officer in Masonic bodies. He served the town of Boston as President of the Board of Health, as Fireward, and as a member of the School Committee, and later, upon the organization of the city government, was elected first as a member of the Common Council, and then as an Alderman, for eight successive years. He represented Boston for twenty-four years in the House of Representatives, and for two years was a member of the Senate, and again for two years one of the executive Council. He was also a delegate from Boston to the Constitutional Convention of 1820. He was closely identified with the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic

Association, and for a period of fourteen years was its President.

[Born, 1761; died, 1845.]

REV. JOSEPH STEVENS BUCKMINSTER, who succeeded Rev. Mr. Emerson as Corresponding Secretary, was the youthful pastor of the church in Brattle Street. He was an eloquent preacher, and a man of great learning and cultivation. He was one of the founders of the Boston Athenæum.

[Born, 1784; died, 1812; Harvard, 1800.]

REV. THOMAS BALDWIN, D.D., the minister of the Second Baptist Society, was a Trustee from 1813 to 1824. He stood at the head of his denomination, and was an indefatigable worker within and without the church. He took an active part in many benevolent institutions, was a member of the Legislature for many years, of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, and was named as a candidate for Presidential Elector.

[Born, 1753; died, 1825.]

JOHN PHILLIPS, the first Mayor of Boston, was from 1819 until his death in 1823 the Corresponding Secretary of this Society, a position which he occupied during his term as Mayor, and during the latter portion of his long service as President of the Massachusetts Senate. He took an active part in town affairs, presided over the town meetings, and was a member of the School Committee, was a member of the House of Representatives in 1803, and for the succeeding twenty years a member of the Senate, over which for the latter ten years he presided. He was also a member of the Constitutional

Convention of 1820. He was the Town Advocate before the Boston Municipal Court, and in 1809 was made a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Suffolk County. He was chairman of the committee which reported a city charter for Boston, and upon the adoption of the charter, in 1822, was chosen Mayor of the city. For many years he was an Overseer, and subsequently a member of the Corporation of Harvard College. It is related in the Centinel, that at the time of his death, in 1823, he was President of the Manufacturers and Mechanics' Bank, Vice President of the Provident Institution for Savings, a member of the Corporation of Harvard College, a Trustee of the Andover Theological Seminary; and director in other institutions, and a few days previous to his decease was also President of the Senate and Mayor of the city. He delivered the address before this Society in 1806.

[Born, 1770; died, 1823; Harvard, 1788.]

REV. JOHN LATHROP, D.D., who gave the second annual address before the Society, was the pastor of the Old North or Second Church, and was deeply interested in the charities and philanthropies of the time. He gave many years' service to Harvard College as a Fellow and as an Overseer, served the town upon the School Committee, was the President of the Theological Library, Secretary of the Congregational Charitable Society, a Councillor of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Trustee and President of the Massachusetts Humane Society, to all of which he gave a devoted service.

[Born, 1740; died, 1816.]

JOHN DAVIS, LL. D., who was one of the original members of the Society, and was selected to deliver the annual address in 1799, was a man of most varied accomplishments and of great public usefulness. He held under President Washington the positions of Comptroller of the United States Treasury and United States District Attorney, and from President Adams received the appointment of Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the duties of which latter office he discharged with great honor for more than forty years. He was a delegate to the Convention of 1788, on the adoption of the State Constitution, and a delegate to the State Convention of 1820. He long served the town of Boston upon its School Committee, and he devised the city seal adopted by Boston on its incorporation in 1822. For the period of thirty-five years he served Harvard College successively as a Fellow of the Corporation, Treasurer, and Overseer. He was one of the founders and a President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, President of the Boston Athenæum, a Secretary and Councillor of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and closely interested in other societies. He was a zealous scholar, and delivered and published many valuable historical addresses and papers.

[Born, 1761; died, 1847; Harvard, 1781. Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 3d Series, vol. x.]

REV. FRANCIS PARKMAN, D. D., the pastor of the New North Church from 1813 to 1849, was, during the early part of his ministry, a member of the Board of Trustees. He was a devoted minister and active in nearly all

the important charitable institutions of his native town. The Parkman Professorship of Theology in the Divinity School of Harvard College owes its foundation to him.

[Born, 1788 ; died, 1852 ; Harvard, 1807.]

JOHN HEARD, a distinguished member of the Suffolk bar, was successively Trustee, Vice President, and President of the Society. For nearly thirty years he was Register of Probate for the County of Suffolk, and from 1836 until his death Judge of that Court.

[Born, 1775 ; died, 1839 ; Harvard, 1795.]

FRANCIS JOHONNOT OLIVER, successively a Treasurer, Trustee, Vice President, and President of the Society, was an enterprising merchant of Huguenot descent. He took a leading part in the development of East Boston, and was one of the founders of the American Insurance Company, of which he was for eighteen years President. He was likewise President of the City Bank for a considerable period. He was for four years under Mayor Quincy a member of the Common Council, in two of which years he was President of that body. He also represented Boston in the Legislature for several terms.

[Born, 1777 ; died, 1858 ; Harvard, 1795.]

EBENEZER TURELL ANDREWS, a Trustee, Vice President, and President of the Society, was a partner of Isaiah Thomas in the old printing and publishing firm of Thomas and Andrews. He was a Representative of Boston in the General Court, and was identified with the organization of the Provident Institution for Savings, the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company,

the New England Mutual Life and Manufacturers' Fire Insurance Companies, the Tremont Bank, and other public and business enterprises.

[Born, 1766; died, 1851.]

SAMUEL FOSTER McCLEARY, first a Trustee, and subsequently for twenty years the Corresponding Secretary of the Society, was a counsellor at law, who, after nine years' service as Clerk of the Massachusetts Senate, became in 1822 the first City Clerk of Boston, and most efficiently performed the responsible duties of that office for a continuous period of thirty years. He was succeeded as City Clerk by his son of the same name, who was chosen in the present year (1892) President of the Society.

[Born, 1780; died, 1855.]

The rolls of membership contain the names of many, who, though never acting as officers of the Society, were prominent in the community. Among the original members were the following: —

SAMUEL ADAMS, the Revolutionary leader and Governor of the Commonwealth;

THOMAS RUSSELL, "chief" among the merchants of Boston, and the most liberal benefactor to the Society's funds;

DR. JOHN WARREN, the distinguished surgeon and Professor of Anatomy, who stood at the head of his profession, and was one of the chief founders of the Massachusetts Humane Society;

OLIVER WENDELL, a member of the Massachusetts Senate, of the Executive Council, and of the Corpo-

ration of Harvard College, and Judge of the Probate Court for the County of Suffolk ;

THOMAS BULFINCH, a distinguished gentleman of the old school, honored at home and abroad, one of the most respected physicians of the time, and author of several valuable medical treatises ;

CHARLES BULFINCH, the son of Thomas Bulfinch, an architect to whom Boston is deeply indebted for the beauty of the present State House and for the most notable buildings erected in his day, and who with great ability served the town for the long period of nineteen years as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, as well as in other important capacities ;

DR. AARON DEXTER, a large contributor to the Society's funds, one of the most prominent physicians, a writer of several medical books, and for nearly forty years a Professor in Harvard College, who was also one of the founders and President of the Humane Society, a Councillor of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences from 1793 to 1821, and a member of the School Committee of Boston ;

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD GRIDLEY, the chief engineer in the reduction of Louisburg in 1745, an assistant of General Wolfe in the capture of Quebec, who was made in 1775 chief engineer and commander of artillery in the Colonial army, and who laid out the works on Bunker Hill and the fortifications about Boston ;

THOMAS LINDALL WINTHROP, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of the American Antiquarian Society, and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth from 1820 to 1832 ;

REV. JOHN THORNTON KIRKLAND, D.D., the schol-

arly pastor of the New South Church, and subsequently President of Harvard College, who delivered the address before the Society in 1801 ;

PETER THACHER, whose name was in 1811 changed to Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, the Town Advocate of Boston for several years, and subsequently one of the Judges of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston, the orator of the Society in 1805 ;

NATHAN WEBB, a teacher with "Master Tileston" in the Eliot School, for many years the Secretary of the Boston Library, who was long a principal Assessor and Selectman of the town, and represented it in the General Court from 1811 to 1814 ; and

SAMUEL HUBBARD, the orator of the Society in 1812, an eminent lawyer, who became one of the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, for many years a member of the House of Representatives, and subsequently of the State Senate and of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, a Trustee of the Phillips Academy and of the Theological School at Andover, long the President of the American Education Society, and one of the founders and Vice President of the American Tract Society.

The early membership of the Society included nearly all the clergy active in Boston one hundred years ago. Besides the ministers of the town who have been already referred to as officers of the Society, the catalogues included REV. DR. JOSEPH ECKLEY, the public-spirited pastor of the Old South Church ; REV. DR. JOHN CLARKE, the devoted minister of the First Church ; REV. SAMUEL WEST, of the church in Hollis Street ; REV. DR. WILLIAM WALTER, the returned Royalist and Rector of Christ Church ; REV. JOHN MURRAY, the zealous and

eloquent pastor of the Universalist Church; and REV. DR. FRANCIS A. MATIGNON, one of the earliest of the Roman Catholic priests of Boston, all of whom gave more or less active assistance to the new Society.

The list of the early members whose careers were noteworthy might be greatly extended. The sketches of their services are interesting as showing not only the character of the men who founded and successfully carried on the Society in its early days, but they also show the public spirit and benevolence which animated the leading citizens of Boston a century ago, and which was manifested in the varied, large, and disinterested services which these citizens performed for the community.

X. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE USEFUL INVENTIONS.

The original purpose of the Society, not only to provide pecuniary relief for sufferers by fire, but also to lessen its ravages by stimulating genius to useful discoveries tending to secure lives and property from destruction by that element, was pursued with vigor for a long period. The laws and regulations adopted after its incorporation in 1794 made provision for application of funds to "the payment of such premiums as are calculated to further the benevolent principles of the institution," with the limitation that the amount to be paid in any one year should not exceed one tenth of the interest arising from the funds in that year, and that no premium for any machine or invention should be granted but on full and satisfactory proof of its being new and original, and further that no person should receive such premium

unless he publicly made known the principles and methods of its construction and use.

Provision was also made for the annual appointment of a committee, distinct from the Government of the Society, for the examination of all such machines or inventions as should come within the object of the institution, and no premium could be adjudged but upon the certificate of the committee declaring the utility, novelty, and originality of the machine or invention. The Committee on Machines, first appointed in 1794, consisted of Hon. Thomas Dawes, Colonel Paul Revere, Benjamin Dearborn, Rev. Dr. Jeremy Belknap, and Richard Gridley, Jr. Subsequently, however, the committee consisted of three members. Benjamin Dearborn continued a member, with the exception of a single year, until 1819; and Paul Revere's service was, with the exception of two years, continued until 1818. Rev. Dr. William Walter, Rev. Dr. John Lathrop, Joseph W. Revere, and Joseph P. Bradlee also gave many years' service upon this committee, which continued in existence until 1880.

The Committee on Machines during the earlier years seems to have had an active existence, and to have exercised a large influence, although no money was voted for premiums. Unfortunately, no records of its meetings have been preserved.

At the first stated meeting of the Society of which the full record is preserved, held on May 30, 1794, upon the report of a committee which had been previously appointed to consider what measures should be taken respecting the machines presented to the Society by Benjamin Dearborn, a vote was passed providing that the

models presented by him should be deposited, together with his description of them, with the Historical Society. Mr. Dearborn's descriptions of his suggested Ladder and Receiver, and of his Leveller, are preserved. He proposed the construction of a Ladder "long enough to reach from the ground to the chamber windows," to which should be attached a box or receiver, which should be made to slide up and down the ladder by means of ropes. He claimed, as the benefit to be gained from his device, "the expedition and security with which persons and articles may be transported to the ground from the chamber windows of a house on fire or in danger," and a relief from the crowds of people who interrupt the moving of goods through narrow passages. He was seeking rather mildly to anticipate the somewhat complicated fire-escapes of the present day. His other instrument was a Leveller, by which the posts, sills, and beams of a building could be torn out, and the whole building expeditiously levelled to the ground.

It does not appear that Mr. Dearborn's inventions proceeded farther than the models exhibited in the Historical Society's rooms, but some "Observations on accidental Fires," submitted by him, were considered by the Society, and by its direction were printed in a newspaper. In 1797 a vote was passed providing for the reprinting of "Observations on Fire, which had appeared in a newspaper"; and a somewhat lengthy series of suggestions, inserted at the request of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, appeared in Fleet's Almanac for 1798. It is probable that these were the original "Observations" of Mr. Dearborn.

Though the Observations are not altogether adapted to

the exigencies of the present time, they are at least interesting as showing the circumstances under which fires were fought a hundred years ago, and they are in many cases novel and original. His advice that servants be obliged to go to bed before the householder, and be not permitted to carry a lighted candle to a bedroom in the garret, and that candles if left burning at night be placed out of the reach of rats, is certainly all in the interest of safety. The prohibition of the use of cigars in the family, however, notwithstanding the unfortunate instance quoted showing the prevalence of cigar-smoking even in the last century, could hardly be expected to find enforcement now. The suggestion that, in default of more convenient or expeditious means, persons and property might be rescued by one man standing upon the shoulders of another, would hardly apply to the present custom of building. Nor would it always be practicable to shut the door of the room where the fire is suspected to be, until one's family and most valuable effects are secured, and a quantity of water is collected to throw on the fire. The directions for the use of water impregnated with solutions of fresh salts, to be used in small engines, suggest the modern fire-extinguishers, and the application of fire-proof paints in exposed places has become a common practice. The whole are given as the first recorded practical work of the Society in the direction of the prevention of fire.

(*The following is inserted at the request of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.*)

DIRECTIONS for *preventing* CALAMITIES by FIRE.

1. Keep your chimnies and Stove Pipes clean, by sweeping them at least once every month.

2. Never remove hot ashes in a wooden vessel of any kind, and look well to your ash-hole.

3. After sweeping a hearth, see that the brush does not retain any particles of fire, before you hang it up in its usual place.

4. Oblige all your servants to go to bed before you, every night, and inspect all your fireplaces before you retire to rest. For fear of accidents, let a bucket of water be left in your kitchen every night. The writer of these directions once saved his house from being consumed by fire, by this precaution.

5. Do not permit a servant to carry a candle to his bedroom, if he sleeps in an unplastered garret.

6. Cover up your fire carefully every night in ashes. Let the unburnt parts of the billets or chunks of wood be placed next the hearth, but not set upright in the corners, by which means no sparks will be emitted from the wood. Pour a little water upon the burning ends of the wood which are not completely covered by the ashes. Place before the fire a fender made of sheet iron. This contrivance was well known in England many years ago, by the name of *Coverfeu*. It has lately received (from a top being added to it) the name of *Hood*.

7. Remove papers and linen from near the fire to a remote part of the room.

8. Shut the doors of all the rooms in which you leave fire at night. By thus excluding the supply of fresh air, you will prevent a flame being kindled, should a coal or spark fall upon the floor, or upon any of the combustible matter in the room. The smoake which issues from this smother'd fire will find its way into every part of the house, and by waking the family may save it from destruction.

9. If sickness, or any other cause should oblige you to leave a candle burning all night, place it in such a situation as to be out

of the way of rats. A house was once destroyed by a rat running away with a lighted candle for the sake of the tallow, and conveying it into a hole filled with rags, and inflammable matters.

10. Never read in bed by candle-light, especially if your bed be surrounded by curtains.

11. Strictly forbid the use of segars in your family at all times, but especially after night. May not the greater frequency of fires in the United States than in former years, be ascribed in part to the more general use of segars by careless servants and children? — There is good reason to believe a house was lately set on fire by a half-consumed segar, which a woman suddenly threw away to prevent being detected in the unhealthy and offensive practice of smoking.

In case of fire, attend to the following directions, to prevent or restrain its terrible consequences: —

1. Do not open the room or closet door where you suspect the fire to be, until you have secured your family, and your most valuable effects, nor until you have collected a quantity of water to throw on the fire, the moment a fresh supply of air excites it into a flame. Where water cannot conveniently be had, try to smother the fire by throwing two or three blankets over it. A British sea-captain once saved a king's ship by throwing himself with a spread blanket in his arms, upon a fire which had broken out near the powder-room. He was pensioned for life, for this wise and meritorious act.

2. In case it be impossible to escape by a stair-case from a house on fire, shut the door of your bed-chamber, and wait until help can be brought to secure your escape from a window.

3. If safety does not appear probable in this way, wrap yourselves up in a blanket, hold your breath, and rush through the flames. If water be at hand, first wet the blanket.

4. To prevent fire descending from the roof, or ascending from the first story, form, by means of blankets or carpets, a kind of dam on each of the intermediate stories near their stair-case, that shall confine the water that is thrown upon the roof, or into the windows. It will effectually check the progress of the fire downwards or upwards in brick or stone houses.

5. To prevent fire spreading to adjoining houses, cover them with wet blankets or carpets, or old sails.

6. To extinguish fire in a chimney, shut the doors and windows of the room. Throwing a quart or more of common salt into the fire. Hold, or nail, a wet blanket before the fire-place. If these means fail, throw a wet blanket down the chimney from the roof of the house.

There is a method used in some countries of glazing chimnies when they are built, by burning common salt in them, which renders them so smooth that no soot can adhere to them. Chimnies so constructed can never take fire.

Ladders are commonly used as the means of conveying persons from the windows of houses on fire. Would not a long and stiff pole, with a rope fixed on its upper end, be more portable, and convenient for this purpose?

The famous Mr. John Wesley, when a child, was taken out of a window in his father's house whilst in flames, by one man standing upon the shoulders of another. This practice may be used to rescue persons from the first story of a house on fire, when other means cannot be had with sufficient convenience or expedition.

DIRECTIONS

for the Speedy and Effectual Extinguishing of FIRE.

1. Let water be impregnated with a solution of one or more of the following fixed salts. (1) Marine salt. (2) Pot or pearl-ashes. (3) Allum. (4) Copperas.

2. Let every family keep a hogshead, or at least a barrel of this impregnated water, which should frequently be stirred. It may be kept in warm weather in an outhouse, in cold weather in a cellar.

3. In every engine-house let a large butt mounted on wheels be kept ready for use. This may be drawn by a horse to any place where it may be wanted. To this butt let there be fixed one or two large wooden cocks, with a short leather hose to prevent waste.

4. Should a fire be of long continuance and in danger of spreading, an additional quantity of those salts pulverised being pre-

vously provided, will soon dissolve and mix with an additional quantity of water.

The ADVANTAGES of such impregnated water, above common water, are as follows: —

1. It will damp or extinguish the fire instantaneously.
2. It will prevent the burnt wood from rekindling, for when the water is evaporated the salts remain. *Note.* To prove this, let any person dip a brand of fire into common soap-lye, and then lay it on the hottest fire, — or let him take the staves of a leach barrel in which soap has been kept, and put them in a glowing oven — and he will find that they will not *easily* kindle.
3. By reason of its superior weight, it may be thrown with greater force against the wind.
4. A very small quantity will do more execution, than a large quantity of simple water.
5. It may be used with more success in small than large Engines.
6. It will save much labour of pumping and handling of buckets, and prevent much waste of water, as in the common method.
7. If a perforated plate of brass or copper like those on the extremity of the tube of a watering pot be fixed with a screw to the pipe of an engine, the water may be more equally distributed over the surface of burning wood, than by one single stream. This can be of use only in small Engines.

To PREVENT Flashes of Fire from kindling when they fall on the wooden Roofs of Buildings.

Take three parts (by measure) of air-slacked lime, two do. of finely sifted wood-ashes, and one do. of fine sand, grind them in oil to the consistence of paint, and lay them on the mixture with a brush.

Two coats will be necessary; the first thin, the second as thick as it can be conveniently worked. This coating will harden by time, and is impenetrable by flakes or even coals of fire falling on it.¹

¹ Fleet's Almanac, 1798.

The last reference to the Committee on Machines by the Government of the Society which appears in the records was a request made in the year 1858, that the committee should consider the merits of Steam Fire-Engines; but their report, if given, is not preserved.

XI. PUBLIC DISCOURSES.

The first constitution of the Society required that annually, on the last Wednesday in May, "a public discourse, expressive of the advantages arising from charitable institutions, shall be delivered before the Society, by some person to be appointed by the Government for that purpose, at which time a collection shall be made for the benefit of the Society's fund." The practice was continued for a period of twenty-three years, and the delivery of the address, with the accompanying services, was not only an event of much importance to the Society, but it was an occasion of great interest to the citizens of the town, and exercised a large public influence. No meetings of a private society seem to have been so largely attended, or to have called forth so much public notice. The newspapers, which in general at that period contained but meagre accounts of local events, if they were mentioned at all, gave to these meetings more extended reports than were accorded any other similar occasions, and, indeed, devoted to them no inconsiderable space. These reports will be found interesting not only as showing the character of the entertainments afforded, and the popular favor which was bestowed upon the Society, but also as samples of the style in which local events were narrated in those days. Considerable portions of the various descriptions are therefore quoted.

At the conclusion of the annual meetings, which were held at the County Court House, or in the Senate or Representatives' Chamber in the Old State House, the members of the Society marched in procession to King's Chapel, where, to an audience already assembled, the address was delivered, music, frequently composed for the occasion, was performed, and original poems or odes, set to music, were sung by select choirs or by the leading soloists of the town. The collections taken at these meetings varied in different years from sixty-four dollars to three hundred and fifty dollars.

Considerable difficulty seems to have been experienced in the selection of the first orator in the year 1795. Rev. Dr. Samuel Parker was first selected, but he declined, and subsequently Rev. Dr. Howard, Rev. Dr. Walter, Rev. Dr. Stillman, and Rev. Dr. David Tappin were successively appointed and in turn declined. Finally, Hon. George Richards Minot,¹ the Vice President of the Society, accepted the position. Col. Josiah Waters, Arnold Welles, Jr., and Shubael Bell, were invested with the duty of making the necessary arrangements.

The annual meeting was held on May 29, 1795, at the County Court House, and officers for the ensuing year were elected. "At four o'clock," says the Centinel,² "the Society moved in procession to the Chapel, where an elegant oration was delivered by the Hon. George R. Minot, after which an ode, composed for the occasion by Mr. Paine, was sung by Mr. [Daniel] Rea, in his usual style of excellence; the music was excellent, and the prayers read on the occasion were strikingly pertinent, the audience was numerous and respecta-

¹ See page 25.

² Columbian Centinel, May 30, 1795.

ble." The Ode, written by Thomas Paine,¹ was as follows:—

RISE, COLUMBIA.

WHEN first the Sun o'er Ocean glow'd,
And Earth unveiled her virgin breast,
Supreme mid Nature's vast abode,
Was heard th' Almighty's dread behest,
Rise, Columbia, brave and free,
Poize the Globe, and bound the Sea!

In darkness wrapp'd, with fetters chain'd,
Will ages grope, debaf'd and blind;—
With blood, the human hand be stain'd;—
With tyrant power the human mind.
Rise, Columbia, &c.

¹ Thomas Paine, who composed the ode for this occasion, and for several subsequent meetings of the Society, was a son of Robert Treat Paine, the distinguished signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was born in the year 1773. Thomas, on account of his abhorrence of Thomas Paine, the author of the "Age of Reason," caused his name to be changed by the legislature in 1801 to that of his father, assigning as the ground for the change that he had no *Christian* name. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1792, and entered a store with the purpose of adopting a mercantile pursuit, for which, however, he soon displayed his inaptitude by making his day-book entries in rhyme and copying legal instruments in verse. He afterwards, aside from a short career at the bar, devoted himself chiefly to poetry, and became for a time a prolific author. He was the leading poet of his day, was much called upon for special occasions, and attained a wide reputation. He wrote a prize prologue for the opening of the Federal Street Theatre in 1794; he gave a poem at Cambridge on taking the degree of Master of Arts, which was so well received as to yield him the sum, remarkable at that time, of \$1,500; and in 1797, he delivered a poem before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Cambridge, which was almost equally successful in a pecuniary way. "Rise, Columbia," was his earliest ode. The song of "Adams and Liberty," which he subsequently composed for this Society, acquired a national popularity, and yielded him not only fame but also a pecuniary return of \$750. Mr. Paine published for some time a literary magazine, and as an orator of the Federal party received enthusiastic commendation from Washington and John Adams. His life was irregular and indulgent, and his erratic career was ended by death in 1811. His poems were published in 1812 in a large octavo volume, and they form the subject of a lengthy review by Washington Irving.

But, lo, acrofs th' Atlantic floods,
 The ftar-directed Pilgrim fails !
 See ! fell'd by Commerce, float thy woods ;
 And cloath'd by Ceres, wave thy vales !
Rife, Columbia, &c.

Remote from realms of rival fame,
 Thy bulwark is thy mound of waves ;
 The Sea, thy birth-right, Thou muft claim,
 Or fubject, yield the foil it laves.
Rife, Columbia, &c.

Nor yet, though skill'd, delight in arms ;
 Peace and her offspring Arts, be thine ;
 The face of FREEDOM fcarce has charms,
 When on her cheeks no dimples fhine.
Rife, Columbia, &c.

While Fame for thee, her wreath entwines,
 To *blefs* — thy nobler triumph prove ;
 And though the Eagle haunts thy pines,
 Beneath thy willows fhield the Dove.
Rife, Columbia, &c.

When bolts the flame, or whelms the wave,
 Be thine to rule the wayward hour !
 Bid Death unbar the watery grave,
 “And Vulcan yield to Neptune's power.”
Rife, Columbia, &c.

Revered in Arms, in Peace humane,
 O'er human we extend thy fway ;
 O'er fate bid Virtue gently reign,
 And *fubject elements* obey.
Rife, Columbia, brave and free,
 Poize the Globe, and bound the Sea !

In 1796 the oration was delivered by Rev. Dr. John Lathrop,¹ and prayers and lessons appropriate to the occafion were read by Rev. Dr. John Eliot. Again,

¹ See page 38.

“an ode, composed by Mr. Thomas Paine for the occasion, was sung by Mr. Rea in his usual stile of excellence,”¹ and music, both instrumental and vocal, was given by other gentlemen.

The thanks of the government of the Society were extended to Mr. Thomas Paine “for the ode composed by him for this anniversary.” There is, however, no ode contained in the publications of the Society or in the published volume of Mr. Paine’s poems, which is ascribed to this occasion. “Adams and Liberty, the Boston patriotic song, composed by Thomas Paine, A. M., first sung at the anniversary of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society,” was published with the discourse delivered in 1798, and is usually ascribed to that year, but it is likely that it was first given to the Society this year, and was repeated before it in 1798, with the addition of the stanza containing the allusion to Washington.²

¹ Boston Gazette, June 6, 1796.

² Mr. Paine’s biographer, Charles Prentiss, in 1812, says of this song:—“At the request of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, Mr. Paine wrote his celebrated political song of ‘Adams and Liberty.’ There was probably never a political song more sung in America than this. It was read by all; and there was scarcely in New England a singer that could not sing this song. Nor was its circulation confined to New England; it was sung at theatres and on public and private occasions throughout the United States, and republished and applauded in Great Britain.” It is a curious fact that Paine wrote “Adams and Liberty” to be sung to the tune of the old English song, “To Anacreon in Heaven,” the same air which Francis S. Key subsequently, in 1814, adopted for his song of “The Star-spangled Banner.” The biographer further narrates that Mr. Paine, being at the house of Mr. Russell, the editor of the Centinel, showed him the song. While highly approving the song, Mr. Russell pronounced it imperfect because no mention was made of Washington. Paine being about to help himself from the well provided sideboard, Major Russell jokingly interfered and insisted that his guest should not slake his thirst until he had written an additional stanza, in which Washington should

ADAMS AND LIBERTY.

TUNE — "*To Anacreon in Heaven.*"

Ye Sons of Columbia, who bravely have fought,
 For those rights, which unstain'd from your fires had descended,
 May you long taste the blessings your valor has bought,
 And your sons reap the foil which their fathers defended !
 Mid the reign of mild peace,
 May your nation increafe,
 With the glory of Rome, and the wisdom of Greece.
And no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

In a clime, whose rich vales feed the marts of the world,
 Whose shores are unshaken by Europe's commotion,
 The *trident* of Commerce should never be hurl'd,
 To incense the *legitimate* powers of the ocean.
 But should *Pirates* invade,
 Tho' in *thunder* array'd,
 Let your Cannon declare the *free charter of trade* !
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

The *fame* of our ARMS — of our LAWS the *mild* sway,
 Had justly ennobled our nation in story,
 Till the dark cloud of *faction* obscur'd our young day,
 And envelop'd the sun of *American* glory.
 But let TRAITORS be told,
 Who their *country* have *sold*,
 And bartered their GOD, for his *image* in *Gold*,
That no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

While *France* her huge limbs bathes recumbent in blood,
 And society's *base* threats with wide dissolution ;
 May *Peace*, like the *Dove*, who returned from the flood,
 Find an *Ark* of abode in our mild *Constitution*.

be introduced. Paine walked back and forth a few minutes, and suddenly called for a pen, and forthwith wrote the new stanza referring to Washington.

But tho' PEACE is our aim,
 Yet the boon we disclaim,
 If bought by our *Sov'reignty, Justice, or Fame.*
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

'T is the *fire* of the FLINT each American warms,
 Let Rome's haughty victors beware of *collision* ;
 Let them bring all the *vassals* of Europe in arms,
 We're a *world by ourselves* and disdain a *division*.
 While with Patriot pride,
 To our *laws* we're allied,
 No foe can subdue us, no faction divide.
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

Our mountains are crown'd with imperial *oak* ;
 Whose *roots*, like our *liberties*, ages have nourished ;
 But long ere *our* nation submits to the *yoke*,
 Not a *tree* shall be left on the field, where it flourished.
 Should invasion impend,
 Every grove would descend,
 From the hilltops they shaded, our shores to defend ;
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

Let our *Patriots* destroy *Anarch's* pestilent *worm*,
 Left our *liberty's growth* should be checked by corrosion ;
 Then let *clouds* thicken round us ; we heed not the *storm* ;
 Our realm fears no *shock*, but the earth's own *explosion*.
 Foes assail us in vain,
 Tho' their fleets *bridge* the main,
 For our *altars* and *laws* with our lives we'll maintain.
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

Should the tempest of war overshadow our land,
 It's *bolts* could ne'er rend FREEDOM's *Temple* asunder ;
 For unmov'd, at its *portal*, would WASHINGTON stand,
 And *repulse* with his *breast*, the *assaults* of the *thunder*.



Arnold Welles
— 4 —



His *sword* from the sleep
 Of its *scabbard*, would leap,
 And *conduct*, with its *point*, every *flush* to the deep :
For no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

Let *Fame* to the world found *America's* voice ;
 No *intrigue* can her SONS from their *Government* fever ;
 Her *pride* is her ADAMS ; his *laws* are her *choice* ;
 And shall flourish, till LIBERTY *slumbers forever !*
 Then UNITE *heart* and *hand*,
 Like *Leonidas'* band,
 And *swear* to the GOD of the Ocean and Land ;
That no Son of COLUMBIA shall e'er be a slave,
While the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls a wave.

In 1797, in addition to the ordinary formal notification for the meeting, a more earnest invitation was extended: "The friends to the charitable and benevolent institutions, of all denominations — all who wait not to hear the piercing *cries* of those who are ready to perish, to awaken their humanity, and the ladies in particular, are invited to attend." Arnold Welles, Jr.,¹ was selected to give the discourse, and Rev. Dr. James Freeman conducted the religious exercises. An original ode was announced, but none is found credited to the occasion. An extended report of the exercises was published. "The day was fine, and the largest and most brilliant assembly had collected that we ever remember to have seen on any similar occasion. The bills of fare published for their amusement had raised, but the performance exceeded the most sanguine expectation. The appearance of Mr. Welles, the orator of the day, interested the auditory in his favour. Intelligence, elegance

¹ See page 29.

of sentiments, purity of language, and superiority of elocution forced from an admiring audience as sincere a plaudit as ever vibrated from the eulogizing heart. To Mr. Seley and Stone the company were indebted for a real treat. The anthems were well chosen and meritoriously performed. Of Mr. Rea we must be silent in our attempt to do him justice; his singing was in his usual style of elegance, he never fails to please. Mr. Freeman was judicious in the selection of prayers and lessons.”¹

“The friends to charitable and benevolent institutions of all denominations, those who wish to hear a sublime display of sentiment, patriotism, and music, and the ladies in particular,”² were invited to attend the Society’s meeting of 1798. Hon. Wm. Tudor³ gave the address, which is described⁴ as “an excellent and well adapted oration,” delivered “to the most numerous and brilliant assembly we have ever seen on any similar occasion. The Boston patriotic song of ‘Adams and Liberty,’ written by Mr. Paine, was sung and re-echoed amidst the loudest reiterated plaudits,” by Dr. [Nahum] Fay, who “did great justice to its merits.” Rev. Dr. Samuel Parker read the prayers, and there was a variety of instrumental and vocal music, the latter performed by a select choir of gentlemen, to whom the thanks of the Society were voted by the Government.

The following notice of the annual meeting of 1799 was published in the newspapers :⁵ —

¹ Columbian Centinel, June 3, 1797.

² Ibid., May 20, 1798.

³ See page 32.

⁴ Columbian Centinel, June 2, 1798.

⁵ Ibid., May 22, 1799; Boston Gazette, May 30, 1799.

CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

The LADIES its Patrons.

THE anniversary of this Society will be celebrated on Friday next, May 31st. The members are requested to meet at the Senate Chamber at the Old State House, 3 o'clock, P. M. The Society will move in procession to the Chapel Church. The arrangement of performances is as follows : —

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Voluntary on the Organ, by Mr. *Von Hagen*.
 Prayers, by Rev. Mr. *Gardner*.
 An Anthem, by A Select Choir of Gentlemen.
 Lesson, by Rev. Mr. *Gardner*.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

An Address to the Society on the Principles of the
 Institution by JOHN DAVIS, Esq.¹
 An Anthem Instrumental Music.
 A new Patriotic *Ode*, composed for the occasion, by Mr.
Thomas Paine, to be sung by Mr. *Rea*.
Wm. Alline,
 Rec. Sec.

The exercises on this occasion elicited long reports : —
 “After religious exercises by the Rev. Mr. [J. S. J.] Gardner, an elegant and ingenious Oration, replete with moral and patriotic sentiment, was delivered by John Davis, Esq., and a truly poetic, spiritual, and federal Ode, composed by Mr. Paine, was sung by Mr. Rea. A dignified regularity highly becoming the institution distinguished every part of the performances. While the Orator was pleading the cause of suffering distress,

¹ See page 39.

Charity smiled serenely through a tear as she listened to the persuasive eloquence of the pleader. An institution like this, respectable in its members, permanent in its funds, and laudable in its motives, embracing the humane design of alleviating the distresses of those who are reduced to want by the ravages of fire, and of encouraging every improvement and discovery that may tend to secure us against the desolation of this destructive element, cannot fail of being extremely useful. We cannot but anticipate the time, with the orator of the day, when the inventive and improving genius of our countrymen shall render their habitations secure from those ravages by fire which have been so frequent in the seaport towns of America. The gentlemen who composed the *choir* are entitled to great praise. The manner in which both the vocal and instrumental music was performed confirms the public opinion that the exhibition of this Society affords the richest literary treat that ever was offered to the citizens of Boston. In the occasional *oraison*, introduced by the Rev. Mr. Gardner, every feeling and federal heart accorded. The selection of prayers and lessons was judicious and appropriate, and, if we may judge from the pecuniary collections of the day, had their full effect upon an equally enlightened and numerous audience.”¹

Mr. Paine's Ode, which was sung by Mr. Rea, again “in his best style of singing,” with the aid of the select chorus, was published entire.

¹ Boston Gazette, June 3, 1799.

TO ARMS, COLUMBIA!

WRITTEN FOR THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, BY MR. THOMAS PAINE.

TUNE — "*He comes ! He comes !*"

I.

To arms, to arms, when honor cries,
 Nor shrink the brave, nor doubt the wife ;
 On foes, by earth and heaven abhor'd,
 'Tis *Godlike* to unsheathe the sword.
To Arms, Columbia ! — rule thy natal sea,
United, triumph ; — and resolv'd, be free !

II.

Columbia's Eagle soars so high,
 He kens the sun with sovereign eye ;
 Nor cowers his wing, when tempests pour,
 Nor perches, when the thunders roar.
To Arms, Columbia, &c.

III.

Like Glory's dazzling bird of day,
 Our realm should hold imperial sway ;
 Mid clouds and *lightnings* firmly stand,
 Tho' Faction's earthquake shake the land.
To Arms, Columbia, &c.

IV.

Shall Gallia bid our *Oaks* descend
 Her rubric banner to defend ?
 Enslave those *forests*, rear'd to reign,
 The future monarchs of the main ?
To Arms, Columbia, &c.

V.

Can *Glow-worm* vie with noontide *Sun*,
 Or *Lodi's* chief with Washington ?
 Can *Earth* her maniac *moon* obey
 Or *Frenchmen* free *Columbians* sway ?
To Arms, Columbia, &c.

VI.

Revenge ! Revenge ! The flag's unfurl'd !
 Let Freedom's cannon wake the world,
 And Ocean gorge on pirates slain,
 Till *TRUXTON* *Nelsonise* the main !
To Arms, Columbia, &c.

VII.

The fate of nations waits the hour,
 Foretold to end the *Serpent's* power ;
 When fallen realms shall break their trance,
 And *ADAMS* bruise the head of *France*.
To Arms, Columbia ! — rule thy natal sea,
United, triumph ; — and resolv'd, be free.

“A crowded and brilliant audience was assembled” on the occasion of the anniversary of the Society in the year 1800. “The performances were introduced by an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Kirkland, and followed by an elegant and pathetic ode, sung by Mr. Eaton, with his accustomed excellence. To these succeeded an address to the Society on the benevolent principles of the institution by Josiah Quincy, Esq.¹ The public expectation, however much it was raised, was not disappointed in Mr. Quincy, — the address was worthy the occasion. The pleasures of doing good were described with the unaffected ardor of a virtuous mind, and the claims of the needy and unfortunate on the affluent were argued with all that pathos and strength of diction that become the advocate for that benign virtue — *Charity*.”² “The orator portrayed the ills to which the civilized man is subject, and invoked the aid of charity to relieve and console the unfortunate in language so pathetic as touched every soul, and inspired every heart ‘to feel for human woe.’ Music received and deserved applause. . . .

¹ See page 32.

² Boston Gazette, June 2, 1800.

Correct taste and brilliant imagination was displayed at this performance. The most appropriate sentiments, conveyed in a style highly captivating, attracted and rewarded the attention of this very numerous and respectable audience."¹ The collection taken up reached the sum of \$230.

The following was Rev. Mr. Gardiner's² Ode: —

ODE TO CHARITY.

I.

OFFSPRING of Heav'n ! mankind's best friend,
Bright CHARITY ! inspire the lay ;
On these terrestrial shores descend,
And quit the realms of cloudless day.
To thee our annual vows are paid,
Thy praise we hymn, illustrious maid.

II.

When Vulcan rages unconfined,
And Neptune mounts his baffled power,
When flames, aspiring with the wind,
To Heaven's high arch resistless tower,
'Tis then our hearts with pity's glow,
Inspir'd to feel for human wo.

III.

The house a dismal ruin lies,
Where Mirth late tun'd her lyre of joy ;
And tears of anguish fill thine eyes,
Poor orphan girl, and houseless boy.
But thou, sweet maid, with pity's glow,
Inspir'd each heart to soothe their wo.

¹ Columbian Centinel, May 31, 1800.

² Rev. John Sylvester John Gardiner, D. D., was the assistant minister at Trinity Church from 1792 until 1805, when he was made Rector. He was not only esteemed an eloquent preacher, but held a distinguished rank among the scholars of the period. In 1803 he delivered the annual discourse before the Society.

IV.

Come, then, all beauteous as thou art,
 And hide thee from our sight no more;
 Touch every soul, expand each heart
 That breathes on Freedom's chosen shore.
Columbia's sons, with pity's glow,
Inspire to feel for human wo.

The following was published as the arrangement of the performances for the celebration of the anniversary of the Society in 1801¹: —

1. Voluntary on the Organ, by Mr. VON HAGEN.
2. Prayer, by the Rev. Mr. EMMERSON.
3. An Anthem, by a select Choir of Gentlemen.
4. Lessons, by the Rev. Mr. EMMERSON.
5. Anniversary Ode, composed for the occasion, and sung by Mr. BREWER.
6. Instrumental Music.
7. An Address, on the principles of the institution, by Rev. JOHN T. KIRKLAND.
8. Voluntary on the Organ.
9. An Ode, composed for the occasion, by Mr. CHARLES P. SUMNER, and set to music, to be sung by Mrs. JONES.

“The performances at the chapel were,” according to the reports given, “highly gratifying to a numerous and very respectable audience. Nothing could excel the appropriate excellence of Mr. Emerson’s Prayer; his lessons proved the amplitude and exuberance of Scripture in all that concerns humanity and benevolence, and were performed in the best sacerdotal manner. The profound attention paid to the address delivered by the Rev. Mr. Kirkland² was the best testimony of the admiration with which an enlightened audience found justice done to the principles of the institution and the

¹ New England Palladium, May 29, 1801.

² See page 42.

cause of practical charity. Equal justice was done to the griping, wolfish spirit of selfishness, and the metaphysical depravity of the stern benevolence of modern patriots." "The music, both vocal and instrumental, were judiciously selected and ably performed. The additional stanza to Mr. Paine's anniversary ode, 'When first the Sun o'er Ocean Glowed,' originally sung on the first anniversary, in 1795, added a new zest to this literary treat, and a fresh laurel to the American Bard. Mr. Sumner's Ode was well received, and will long entitle him to notice as a scholar and poet. The request of the President that those testimonies of approbation usually bestowed (but which can scarcely be thought proper, considering the place and occasion), might be dispensed with, prevented a repetition of the Ode by Mrs. Jones, of the Boston Theatre, which she performed with infinite taste and judgment, and which would otherwise have been called for."¹

ODE

WRITTEN BY CHARLES P. SUMNER, ESQ.²

I.

WHERE'ER in life's broad path we tread,
 The shafts of ambush'd Fate are sped : —
 The wariest Prudence can't defy,
 Nor from her emptying quiver fly.

¹ Boston Gazette, June 1, 1801; N. E. Palladium, June 2, 1801.

² Charles Pinckney Sumner was born in 1776, and graduated at Harvard in 1796. He studied law under George R. Minot and Josiah Quincy, was for several years Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and from 1825 to his decease in 1839, was Sheriff of the County of Suffolk. He was frequently called upon for public addresses on political and general occasions, and was the author of many odes and songs for charitable and political festivals. He was the father of Charles Sumner.

II.

The inflated dreams of wealth and power
Arise and perish in an hour ;
The pirate plunders on the deep ; —
The bolts of Jove regardless sleep.

III.

The bursting flame, with midnight glare,
Through trembling cities strikes despair ;
The crowd, its progress to restrain,
Direct their force and skill in vain.

IV.

The helpless widow sees her all
Amid the un pitying ravage fall,
And frantic, from her orphans torn,
Through busy tumult flies forlorn.

V.

Sweet Charity, thou nurse of worth,
BEING, of more than mortal birth,
Descend to cheer the good distrest,
And in another's joy be blest.

VI.

Thy dewy eye and melting heart
Alone can soothe affliction's smart ;
Diffuse contentment with a smile,
And sorrow of herself beguile.

VII.

Disaster's gloomiest forms combine,
To make the brightest virtues shine ; —
The Angel Charity to show
Whose soft hand draws the sting of wo.

John Quincy Adams, who had just been recalled by President Jefferson from the Prussian embassy, was selected as the orator in 1802, and he gave a long and interesting address, in which he bestowed much praise upon

the Society for its achievements, and paid an eloquent tribute to the lately deceased President, George R. Minot. The prayers and lessons were read by Rev. Dr. Eliot, an anniversary ode was sung by Mr. Dykes, and an ode written for the occasion by Mr. Paine, and sung by Mr. Mallet, "was received with lively applause" by "a large and respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen."¹ The collection amounted to \$350, the largest amount received by the Society.

RULE, NEW ENGLAND.

AN ODE, WRITTEN FOR THE EIGHTH CELEBRATION, MAY 28, 1802,
BY ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JUN., ESQ.

WHAT arm a sinking State can save
From Faction's pyre or Anarch's grave?
Pale LIBERTY, with haggard eyes,
Looks round her realm, and thus replies,
*Rule, New England! NEW ENGLAND rules and saves.
Columbians never, never shall be slaves.*

NEW ENGLAND first in Freedom's Van,
To toil and bleed for injured man,
Still true to virtue, dares to say,
Order is Freedom — Man obey!
Rule, New England, &c.

Gloom'd like CIMMERIA, beamless day,
Our realm in misted error lay,
DELUSION drug'd a nation's veins;
And TRUTH was philtered in her chains.
Rule, New England, &c.

'Twas now the witching time of night,
When grave-yards yawn, and spectres fright;
While patriot fiends, with demon glare,
Flash, shriek, and hurtle in the air.
Rule, New England, &c.

¹ Columbian Centinel, May 29, 1802.

Alone, amid the coil serene,
 NEW ENGLAND stands and braves the scene ;
 Majestic as she lifts her eye,
 The stars appear — the daemons fly.

Rule, New England, &c.

At length the DAWN, like that which first
 Upon primeval Chaos burst,
 Athwart our clime its radiance throws,
 And blushes at the wrecks it shows.

Rule, New England, &c.

Old MASSACHUSETTS' hundred hills,
 Awake and chant the morn'g song ;
 A realm's acclaim the welkin fills,
 The federal SUN returns with STRONG.

Rule, New England, &c.

And thou pale orb of waning light,
 DEMOCRACY, thou changeling MOON,
 Art doom'd to wheel thy maniac flight
 Unseen amid the cloudless NOON.

Rule, New England, &c.

At the anniversary meeting in 1803, "after several musical performances, the Dedicatory poem, sung by a select choir, prayers and lessons adapted to the occasion by Rev. Dr. Kirkland, and the anniversary ode sung by Mr. Brewer, a spirited and classic address to the Society on the principles of the institution was delivered by the Rev. John S. J. Gardiner,"¹ the assistant minister of Trinity Church. The address was followed by an ode, composed for the occasion by Mrs. Morton, which "was very scientifically sung by Mr. Bowman." This performance met with so much favor that a committee was appointed to wait upon Mrs. Morton and present her the thanks of the Government of the Society ; and the ode was subsequently published in the Centinel.

¹ Columbian Centinel, May 28, 1802.

O D E.

COMPOSED FOR THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARITABLE
FIRE SOCIETY, MAY, 1803.

KIND is the gift of fire! whose power
Man with restraining art shall guide,
Friend of his dear domestic hour,
To all his bosom'd joys allied;
While round his Hearth the sparkling ray,
Consoles the shivering stranger's way.

Not for the social scene alone
Was the *bright Element* design'd;
Hence Science claims her radiant Throne,
And spreads the empire of her mind;
And hence mechanic arts arise,
Inventive, useful, bold and wise.

But should, with wild, unlicensed sway,
The bickering *Flame* rebellious soar,
No more the ruling hand obey,
Friend of the social scene no more;
Wide breaking with disastrous light
Full on the curtained calm of night.

Around the wealth-embelished dome
Bloodless the *red destroyer* flies,
Nor spares the poor man's wedded home,
Nor heeds the frenzied Parent's cries,
Though on her wakening senses steal
All that a mother's heart can feel.

To soothe, to save, still hovering near,
BLEST CHARITY, thy cares extend,
With kind consolatory tear,
Like the sweet dew of Heaven, descend,
To each thy healing smiles expand,
To all enlarge thy generous hand.

Diffusive as the sun, that glows
On every eye with gladdening ray,
Refreshing as the breeze, that flows
To chase the sickly fiend away,
Blessing and blest! loved Power appear,
And plant thy rich Affections here.

Upon the tenth anniversary, in 1804, the Chapel "was at an early hour thronged with a brilliant assembly of beauty, taste, fashion, and respectability. The religious ceremonies were performed by the Rev. Dr. [Wm. Ellery] Channing with much pathetic devotion, and the performance generally received a flattering and distinguished applause. The *occasional* ode, by a lady, afforded another honorary example of the female talent of our fair country-women. It was adapted to the sweet air, 'I traversed Judah's Barren Land,' and was sung by Mrs. Jones with chaste melody and interest. The address to the Society, by Edward Gray, Esq.,¹ considered the subject of this admirable institution in a novel, ingenious, and impressive manner. It was an oblation of correct taste and judgment on the altar of Charity. The performance concluded with an original and appropriate ode, 'The Street was a Ruin,' by Mr. Paine. This *lyrick* composition, which contemplated a scene of touching interest and simplicity, was admirably adapted to music by Mrs. Jones, and sung by her in a style of taste and execution which has not only never been equalled in the most excellent vocal performances in this town, but was truly and literally beyond all praise of cursory criticism. The strong sensibility it excited and the unexampled effect and applause it produced will remain the most eloquent commentator on merit and taste. We hope to see this ode and music in print—it should be repeated."²

¹ Edward Gray was born in Boston in 1764, and was a graduate of Harvard College of the class of 1782. He was an attorney, and a gentleman of literary tastes. He was the father of Rev. Frederick T. Gray.

² Columbian Centinel, June 2, 1840.

THE STREET WAS A RUIN.

AN ODE WRITTEN BY ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR., ESQ., AND SUNG BY
MRS. JONES AT THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

THE street was a ruin, and Night's horrid glare
Illumin'd with terror, the face of Despair ;

While houseless, bewailing,

Mute Pity assailing,

A MOTHER's wild shrieks pierc'd the merciless air.

Beside her stood EDWARD, imploring each wind

To wake his lov'd sister, who lingered behind ;

Awake, my poor MARY,

Oh ! fly to me, MARY,

In the arms of your EDWARD a pillow you 'll find.

In vain he call'd, for now the volum'd smoke

Crackling between the parting rafters broke ;

Thro' the rent seams the forked flames aspire.

All, all, is lost — the roof 's on fire ; the roof's on fire.

A flash from the window brought MARY to view,

She scream'd as around her the flames fiercely blew ;

Where art thou, Mother !

Oh ! fly to me, Brother !

Oh ! save your poor MARY, who lives but for you !

Leave not poor MARY,

Ah ! save your poor MARY.

Her vision'd form descrying,

On wings of horror flying,

The youth erects his frantic gaze,

Then plunges in the maddening blaze !

Aloft he dauntless soars,

The flaming room explores ;

The roof in cinders crushes,

Thro' tumbling walls he rushes !

She 's safe from fear's alarms ;

She faints in EDWARD's arms !

Oh ! NATURE, such thy triumphs are,

Thy simplest child can bravely dare !

O D E.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

I.

WHEN first o'er dull chaotic night,
Beamed the soft ray of infant light,
Warmed by the touch Young Beauty rose,
The earth with new-born rapture glows,
Calm ocean wins the crown from strife,
And all the waken'd system swells with life.

II.

So Charity, thou nymph divine,
The flame that gilds thy sacred shrine,
Pours on the mind a cheery blaze,
Warms the still heart with genial rays,
And gleaming from the tearful eye,
Soothes with its softening beam affliction's sigh.

III.

Here sheltered in thy favorite dome,
The houseless sufferer finds a home ;
As the rich Nile redundant flows
O'er lands where burning Siroc blows ;
So where all sweeping fire extends,
From here the rescuing hand of bounty bends.

IV.

Not like the Greek, whose arts supplied
The Torch to whelm a City's pride ;
Not as o'er Rome, when ruin came
Like the mad wretch who blessed the flame ;
But like high Jove, whose saving power
Gave to Æneas' prayers the quenching shower.

V.

Yes, Charity, thy angel form
Shines thro' the clouds and stills the storm,
With healing breath thy melting voice
Bids the torn breast of Grief rejoice,
And when misfortune's tempest rise,
Thy pitying care the port of peace supplies.

The notice for the meeting of 1805 contained a post-script declaring that "The Government of the Society wish the ladies to attend." The discourse was given by Peter Thacher, Esq.,¹ and odes were sung, composed for the occasion by Thomas Green Fessenden² and Thomas Burley. "The services in the Chapel," says the Centinel, "were chaste, solemn, and impressive, and judiciously calculated to promote the design of the institution by affording annually a literary repast, and by drawing from the coffers of the affluent, and receiving the 'widow's mite,' to establish a fund for the relief of the 'houseless child of want.' "

ODE

WRITTEN BY THOMAS GREEN FESSENDEN, ESQ., FOR THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY, AND SUNG AT THE CHAPEL, BY MR. FOX.

O'er the wild Atlantic wave,
Lo the Fiends of Discord rave ;
 Battle's bray is heard from far,
 Battle's bray is heard from far.
To Bellona's blood-stain'd car,
Yok'd the madding *steeds of war* :—
 But no Fiend of Battle roars
 Round Columbia's happy shores,
 Peace and Plenty, hand in hand,
 Join to bless her happy land.

CHORUS.

*Laud we then the GOD OF HEAVEN,
At whose behest fair Peace is giv'n ;
The God who led our Fathers o'er
To Columbia's happy shore.*

¹ See page 43.

² Thomas Green Fessenden was a native of New Hampshire, who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1796. He was educated as a lawyer, but

Where th' embattled hosts of France,
 To the kindling war advance,
 There shall heroes bite the dust,
 There shall heroes bite the dust,
 Blood shall tinge the rubic waves
 Where the Fiend of Battle raves.
 Sons of Honor, "Sons of Soul,"
 Whom no tyrants can control,
 Patriotic Myriads join
 Round fair Freedom's sacred shrine.
 Ever laud, etc.

Where Britannia's Sons unite
 To provoke the distant fight,
 There shall countless heroes fall,
 There shall countless heroes fall,
 When the tide of battle join'd,
 Hurtles in the hollow wind.
 Fiends of horror flit around,
 Dying heroes strew the ground ;
 Countless ghosts shall wailing go
 To the sullen shades below.
 Laud we then, etc.

May not ANARCH's hydra form,
 Thunder his voice, his breath the storm,
 Desolate our happy land,
 Desolate our happy land —
 Mid fell Discord's wild uproar,
 May no fiend of Anarch roar,
 Call the rugged, meddling throng
 Of every clime, of every tongue,
 To light fair Freedom's funeral pyre,
 And bid her mid the blaze expire.

*May the gracious God of Heav'n,
 At whose behest fair Peace is giv'n,
 The God who led our Fathers o'er,
 Still protect Columbia's shore.*

generally deserted the practice of law for the pursuit of literature. He was the author of several political satires and other poetical works, and a writer on agricultural subjects. In the latter part of his life, from 1822 until his death in 1837, he was editor of the New England Farmer.

O D E

BY A GENTLEMAN OF BOSTON. FOR THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY. SUNG BY
MRS. GRAUPNER.

CANTABILE.

THE night was calm — the sky serene,
And darkness veil'd the face of day,
Tir'd nature clos'd her active scene,
And bound in sleep, her offspring lay.
The midnight watch, had just been spoke,
Who guards the peaceful hours of night,
When from the roof, bursts forth the smoke,
And horror strikes th' astonished sight.

ALLEGRO.

Now see th' affrighted mother run,
Her tender offspring yet to save,
While round the father, clings the son,
Whose piercing cries, protection crave.
The crackling flame, like light'ning darts
From side to side destructive fly,
The frame gives way, the roof now parts,
And all will soon in ruin lye.
When from the crowd a youth ascends,
Who dar'd the scorching flame to brave,
Fearless of death, he thus defends,
And thus his fellow mortals save.

ADAGIO.

Blest Providence, whose power we own
To save or perish, though unknown,
Thy mystic will, we must obey.
And thou, sweet Charity bestow
Thy bounteous gifts, to heal the woe,
And cheer the suff'rer's gloomy way.

The following was printed as the programme for the meeting of 1806:¹—

PERFORMANCE ON THE OCCASION.

Voluntary on the Organ, by Mr. VON HAGEN.

Prayers, by the Rev. Mr. LOWELL.

Instrumental Music.

Ode composed for the occasion.

Lessons adapted for the occasion by the Rev. Mr. LOWELL.

Oratorio selection from Handel, viz.: "Oh, had I Jubal's Lyre;"

Solo by Mrs. GRAUPNER.

"The Trumpet shall sound," (Solo) by Mr. MALLET.

CHORUS.

"Lift up your Heads, ye Heavenly Gates."

Instrumental Music.

Address to the Society on the principles of the Institution, by the Hon. JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq.²

Voluntary on the Organ. And

Collection for the Society's Funds.

Anniversary Ode, to be sung by Mr. Fox.

Mr. Phillips's discourse was described³ as "an animated and appropriate address," and the exercises were reported as interspersed with musical performances, judiciously chosen, and executed with skill and judgment by a select choir. The ode is not found, nor does the name of the author appear. Inasmuch, however, as the Government, after passing a vote of thanks to Mr. Phillips for his address, voted that the Secretary transmit its thanks to Mr. Burley "for his exertions to promote the interests of the Society on this and former occasions," it is likely that Thomas Burley furnished the ode.

¹ Boston Gazette, May 29, 1806.

² See page 37.

³ Ibid., June 5, 1806.

The thirteenth anniversary, in 1807, was celebrated by an address by Luther Richardson, Esq.,¹ appropriate prayers and lessons, by Rev. Asa Eaton, and odes, solos, and choruses, by Mrs. Oldmixon and Mrs. Graupner, "in which were exhibited science, judgment, and ability. 'O, Most Generous Lord, Believe Me,' was given by Mrs. Oldmixon in a style of execution never before witnessed in this town. Mrs. Graupner was in fine voice, and sang Handel's 'Let the Bright Seraphim,' with pleasing effect; and the anniversary Ode, by Mr. Caulfield, was sung in masterly and scientific manner. The performances were deservedly applauded by a brilliant and crowded auditory." The following were the odes:—

O D E.

WHEN with some demon's blasting power,
 Bursting on Midnight's tranquil hour,
 The nymphs of Fire their trains unfurl,
 And round the peaceful mansion curl,
 Ah! who shall paint the wild despair,
 The fear, that fires the brain?
 As rous'd affection gazing there,
 Invokes in vain.

But danger's threat'ning form is braved,
 Through flames each dearer being saved —
 Yet saved to mourn — for morning's ray
 Shall show where all is swept away —
 Shall bid them mark, where plenty strown
 Dark ruin groaning lie,
 As one from ease and comfort thrown
 To penury.

¹ Luther Richardson was a lawyer of Roxbury, and had given several orations in that town.

But there, where deep affliction bends,
 The angel CHARITY descends,
 Her smile in pitying softness flows,
 Her hand the aid of life bestows —
 Bright as the fostering beams that sleep
 On green and flowery lands,
 Kind as the gentle showers that weep,
 On thirsty sands.

To Heaven allied, with glory crown'd,
 Shedding the light of peace around,
 A guiding star through Sorrow's gloom,
 A shield from Misery's burning doom,
 Blest Charity! in praise sincere,
 Fame's consecrated song,
 The secret swell, the grateful tear,
 To thee belong.

O D E.

WRITTEN FOR THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

ANDANTINO.

Shall MAN, the bright image of our great Creator,
 Delight in distressing, a form thus divine,
 And stifle emotions of Nature —
 Sweet Charity's smile.
 Ah, no! 't is not human — a voice that espouses
 The cause of the wretched, our feeling arouses,
 And bids us obey. —
 To this we resign.

ALLEGRO FURIOSO.

Hark! the houseless sufferers cry,
 From th' enraged flames they fly,
 Despair and ruin, now pursue,
 And chilling want appears in view,
 Now the meek-ey'd Goddess see!
 Lovely maid — sweet Charity!
 The balm of Comfort, gently pour,
 And life, and happiness, restore.

The anniversary programme of 1808 included an address by Charles Paine, Esq.,¹ religious exercises by Rev. Joseph S. Buckminster, and the usual instrumental and vocal music. "In but few instances," says the Centinel, "have our citizens experienced more satisfaction in attending public performances than on this anniversary. It is not easy to say which of the performers excelled; each deserved praise. The prayers and lessons by the Rev. Mr. Buckminster were such as might be expected from this excellent divine. Mr. Paine's address was perfectly appropriate, and justly claims the merit of originality. His conceptions were novel, elegant, and elevated. Mrs. Graupner gave general delight, and the anniversary ode was given by Mr. Fox in a very impressive style. The audience was splendid and numerous."² The thanks of the Government were presented to "the gentlemen who compose the Anacreontic Society" for their performances on this occasion. Two odes seem to have been written for this anniversary.

ODE TO CHARITY.

WRITTEN FOR THE FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS SOCIETY.

SEE the dark shades which foil the plan,
Where nature shows her wonder, man;
There pining envy broods its strife,
Here pride infests the joys of life;
The first deep stain survives the cleansing flood,
And where man moves still reeks fraternal blood.

¹ Charles Paine, a son of Hon. Robert T. Paine, was a graduate of Harvard College of the year 1793, and a law partner of Harrison Gray Otis. He delivered the Fourth of July oration in Boston in the year 1801. He gave promise of great eminence in his profession, but died in 1810, at the age of thirty-four.

² Columbian Centinel, May 28, 1808.

O Charity ! thy mantle lend,
 No foe annoys where thou art friend ;
 'T is thine to aid, forgive, excuse,
 And hide what heaven with anguish views ;
 Thy liberal hand arrests the dart of death,
Or mingles blessings with our gasping breath.

Parent of every social art
 That tames the mind, or mends the heart,
 Makes miser, self, its stores disclose,
 And each to feel for either's woes ;
 Thy ardent soul our wayward race inspires,
And warms our bosoms with celestial fires.

See yonder smoaky columns rise,
 And dim the lustre of the skies ;
 The raging elements proclaim,
A ruin'd city feeds the flame.
 What hand dependent poverty shall stay,
 When wealth on fiery wings has flown away ?

'T is thine, O Charity, to feed
 When frowning fortune brings to need ;
 The wretched find in thee a friend,
 And those who give the poor, but lend
 To thee, the faithful steward of bounteous heaven,
 For we *may ask in turn what now is given.*

O D E.

WRITTEN FOR THE FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

A Sufferer by Fire requests Charity.

HELP for the poor, that houseless strays !
 A needy sufferer sighs ;
 Chill round my head the tempest plays,
 And darkly frown the skies,
 My cottage late, how sweet it smiled,
 Nor fitter home content could choose ;
 There blasting flames have ravaged wild —
 Then do not now refuse —

Help to the poor, &c.

Help for the poor, that houseless strays !
 Fair lady, lend thine ear !
 No gem that glows with brightest rays,
 Is bright like Pity's tear.
 And, trust me, to the conscious heart
 The poor man's grateful voice shall sound
 More sweet than tones of happiest art,
 When silence sleeps around.

Help for the poor, &c.

Help for the poor, that houseless strays,
 Though HENRY'S lot be small,
 A daily prayer his voice shall raise,
 A daily blessing call.
 And, lady fair, a softer tone,
 A female oraison shall raise ;
 In purer prayer, thy bounty own,
 And find propitious skies.

Help for the poor, &c.

Help for the poor, that houseless strays,
 And health shall hover round,
 And plenty beam its cheering rays,
 Where generous hearts are found,
 Destructive flame, with whelming blaze,
 Around thy home its power shall lose ;
 The home where seraph kindness stays ;
 Then do not thou refuse

Help to the poor that houseless strays.

“This Society,” said the Gazette,¹ “which is as honorable to the State in which it was instituted, as advantageous to the community at large, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary at the Stone Chapel last Friday, in the afternoon. The performances consisted of an Original Ode by R. T. Paine, Esq., sung by Mrs. Graupner, and other musical compositions ; Lessons, by the Rev. Mr. Hol-

¹ Boston Gazette, June 5, 1809.

ley; and an Oration on the principles of the institution, by Alexander Townsend, Esq.¹ The anniversary of this institution has been peculiarly distinguished by the excellencies of the poetical compositions which the occasion has produced; and certainly no poet can present a brow more thickly encircled with laurels than Mr. Paine. The oration by Mr. Townsend, although he evidently labored under the disadvantage of a severe cold, which essentially injured his utterance, fully satisfied the expectations of a numerous and fashionable audience by the terseness and precision of his style, and the original manner in which he treated a subject upon which orators of great station and celebrity have so ably and so frequently descanted before."

"The oration was," said the Palladium,² "a vivid display of genius and elocution." The chorus from Handel's Messiah, "Worthy the Lamb," was rendered by a select choir, accompanied by a band, "with unprecedented skill and effect," and Mrs. Graupner, who was described as having on no former occasion been heard "with so much taste and science" as she then displayed in executing the new ode by Mr. Paine, was granted a gratuity of thirty dollars.

¹ Alexander Townsend was a graduate of Harvard College of the class of 1802, and a member of the Suffolk Bar. He was a frequent speaker in political debates, and he delivered the oration before the town authorities on July 4, 1810.

² N. E. Palladium, June 6, 1809.

AN ODE

Written by ROBERT TREAT PAINE, *Jun., Esq., and sung by Mrs.*
 GRAUPNER *at the 15th Anniversary Celebration.*

GRAND RECITATIVE.

Bleak lower'd the morn ; — the howling snow-drift blew ;
 Rude piles of devastation smok'd around ; —
 While *houseless Outcasts*, shivering o'er the ground,
 Bade the sad phantoms of their Homes, adieu !

AIR.

Ah ! mouldering wrecks ! ye flit in fearful trance,
 And the vision of frenzy recall,
 When in horror we leap'd, with a fugitive glance,
 From the flames of *yon desolate Wall !*
 See, now, with blighting melancholy bare,
 Like the monument stone at a sepulchre plac'd,
 It weeps o'er this ruinous waste,
 As it totters and rocks in the air.
 In vain, sweet pleading Pity calls ;
 Or the cry of shrill Terror appals ; —
Bending, beetling, crushing o'er the crouded way,
 Hark ! it cracks ! see, it falls !
 And wretches forget all their griefs in dismay.

RECITATIVE.

But, lo ! along its crumbling base,
 With vacancy's ecstatic pace,
All-reckless, a heart-broken mourner repair ;
 Grief has reason beguil'd,
 And *with melodies wild*,
 Invoking *her child*,
 She wanders like Hope, and bewails like Despair.

AIR . . . ANDANTE.

My Boy beneath this ruin lies !
Lost William, hear a *Mother's sighs !*
 Thro' blasts that freeze, and paths that burn,
 Thy tombless dust she comes to urn. —

Now, I thy cherub spirit see! —
 It spreads its doating arms to me! —
It smiles in air! while piteous grace
 Softens the sorrows of its face. —
 Vain was thy *Mother's* frantick flight,
 To snatch thee from the FIEND OF NIGHT!
 Thy *Couch*, — alas! thy funeral *pyre*
 Mid shrieks of *horror*, sunk in *fire!*

ALLEGRO FURIOSO.

Now to clouds of purple light
 Where WILLIAM sits, I'll steal my flight! —
 Cold is this crazy crust of clay,
He beckons to a warmer day!
Wealth! I'm a happier wretch than you,
 And *laughing* bid the world, *Adieu!*

On the sixteenth anniversary of the Society, in 1810, an audience, "numerous and respectable," gathered at the Chapel, and an "elegant oration was pronounced by James Richardson, Esq.,"¹ in connection with the following

ORDER OF PERFORMANCE.²

Voluntary on the Organ, by Mr. G. C. SWEENEY.

Prayers, by Rev. Mr. GRAY.

"Let the Bright Seraphim," sung by Mrs. GRAUPNER; Music by Handel.

Instrumental Music, by a Full Band.

150th Psalm, sung by Mrs. GRAUPNER, Mr. COOPER, Jr., and the Choir.

Music, by Mr. G. C. SWEENEY.

Address to the Society on the Principles of the Institution, by JAMES RICHARDSON, Esq.

Ode, sung by Mrs. GRAUPNER.

Collection, for the benefit of the Society's funds.

Anniversary Ode, sung by Mr. COOPER, Jr.

Benediction.

¹ James Richardson was a counsellor at law, practising in Boston.

² Boston Gazette, May 31, 1810; N. E. Palladium, June 1, 1810.

In 1811, "an appropriate oration was eloquently pronounced by Benjamin Pollard, Esq. ;¹ two original odes, from the pens of Lucius Manlius Sargent, Esq.,² and John Lathrop, Jr., Esq.,³ were sung by Mrs. Stebbins and Horsman to most excellent music composed for the occasion by Mr. Hewitt,"⁴ and the religious exercises were conducted by Rev. Mr. Thacher.

O D E

WRITTEN FOR THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY, BY LUCIUS M. SARGENT, ESQ.

MAMMON, haste thee hence away !
 War, with trumpet, hoarsely braying,
 Pomp, thy purple robe displaying,
 Noisy Mirth and Melancholy,
 Green-ey'd Envy, pale and sallow,
 Party spirit, Pride, and Folly,
 Hence begone, nor dare unhallow
 Gentle Pity's holiday.

*Kindred Spirits join the lay,
 Pity keeps her holiday.*

¹ Benjamin Pollard was Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1811 until 1815, and the Secretary of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, and was the City Marshal of Boston from its incorporation in 1822 until his decease in 1836. He delivered several public orations, was a vigorous political writer on the Federal side, and was an early editor of the Saturday Evening Gazette.

² Lucius Manlius Sargent was educated as a lawyer, but early devoted himself to literary and philanthropic work. He was a frequent contributor to the newspapers, was the author of "Dealings with the Dead," and other volumes of prose, and of several published poems.

³ John Lathrop, Jr., was a graduate of Harvard College of the class of 1789, and began the practice of law, and was for a short time Clerk of Courts for the County of Norfolk; but, like Robert Treat Paine, Jr., with whom he was on terms of intimate companionship, he early devoted himself to literature. He was a frequent contributor, especially of poetry, to the journals, a teacher and lecturer, and delivered addresses and poems on many public occasions. He was a member of the Society.

⁴ Columbian Centinel, June 1, 1811.

Pity, strike thy tender lyre,
Thou canst tell in liquid numbers,
How arous'd from peaceful slumbers,
Widow, orphan, houseless stranger,
All to thee for succour flying,
Found thine arm a shield in danger,
Found thee powerful aid supplying,
When their all was lost in fire.

Kindred Spirits &c.

Hark it is the midnight cry —
See the fiery torrent swelling
Round the poor man's humble dwelling ;
List the little infant crying,
See the curling volumes pouring,
View the frantic mother flying,
Hear the beggar'd wretch deploring,
Mark the tear in Pity's eye.

Kindred Spirits &c.

Midst the saddest scenes of wo,
Fairer than the star of even,
Milder than the blue of Heaven,
Gentle Charity descending,
Gifts with loveliest smiles bestowing,
O'er the lap of sorrow bending,
Drys the tears that fast are flowing,
Bids the grateful bosom glow.

Kindred Spirits &c.

Mark in arms the warrior bold,
Bearing high the head in battle,
Smiling 'midst the deadly rattle ;
Knows the warrior aught of pleasure,
Like the simple child of feeling?
His are joys that know not measure,
Down whose cheek the tear is stealing,
When the tale of grief is told.

Kindred Spirits join the lay,

Pity keeps her holiday.

O D E

WRITTEN FOR THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY, BY JOHN LATHROP, JUN., ESQ.

SEE, on the sacred Temple's spire,
The impious Demon's ruthless hand,
While half the city sinks in fire,
Has fix'd the wildly blazing brand —
His red right arm with mighty power,
Launch'd the fell instrument of wo —
And lo a desolating shower,
Pours on the humbler roofs below.

Aghast the trembling croud survey,
The sparkling torrent from on high ! —
Ah what can now the ruin stay,
Unless some aid divine be nigh ?
As well may human art presume,
To quench the glorious orb of light,
Or reach the meteors that illume,
The brilliant clouds of arctic night.

While yet they gaze, behold with speed,
The dauntless *Brewster*,¹ eager springs !
Angels, who noble actions heed,
Uphold him with your guardian wings !
He swiftly mounts on Franklin's rod,
The steeple's smoaking height ascends,
Preserves the threaten'd house of God,
And calms the fears of Virtue's friends.

Such was the deed that lately sav'd
Our sister City's beauteous domes ;
The Champion's image is engrav'd
On hearts secure in peaceful homes —
Nor *Harris*,² shall the muse's lays,
Unmindful of thy well-earn'd fame,

¹ Mr. Brewster saved the brick Presbyterian Church in New York.

² Mr. Harris extinguished the flames on the Old South Church in Boston the preceding winter.

Refuse the grateful meed of praise,
Due to thy worth — thy valour's claim.

While sweet Benevolence regards
Each generous hero's bold emprise,
And bids him read his bright rewards,
In Gratitude's expressive eyes,
She hails the Charitable band,
Who sooth the houseless wanderer's care,
Relieve the poor with liberal hand,
And cruel Fortune's wrongs repair.

The eighteenth anniversary of the Society was celebrated on May 29, 1812, and the address was given by Samuel Hubbard, Esq.¹ Lessons were read by Rev. Mr. Gardiner, and, under the direction of Messrs. Hewitt and Horsman, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah was performed. Original odes were contributed by John Lathrop, Jr. and by James Ellison, Esq., but neither of the odes is found.

In 1813 an eloquent address in commendation of the Society's work, and containing a fervent eulogium of Rev. Mr. Buckminster, who had just deceased, was delivered by Alexander H. Everett, Esq.² Vocal and instrumental music was rendered by various ladies and gentlemen. The following hymn, written for the occasion by John Lathrop, Jr., was sung.

¹ See page 43.

² Alexander Hill Everett was at the time of delivering this address a counsellor at law, and in the same year delivered the oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Cambridge. He was subsequently Minister to Spain, President of Jefferson College in Louisiana, and United States Commissioner to China. He was an eminent author, and succeeded Jared Sparks as editor of the North American Review.

HYMN,

COMPOSED FOR THE NINETEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHU-
SETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY,

By JOHN LATHROP, Jr., Esq.

HENCE, 't is consecrated ground !
Baleful passions, haste away !
Hush'd be War's terrific sound, —
List to Pity's seraph lay,
Breathing sentiments divine,
As she tunes her silver lyre,
From Religion's holy shrine,
Soothing symphonies aspire,
Sorrow smiles through Rapture's tear,
Angels lean from heav'n to hear.

Happy years of early time,
Now your native charms disclose,
Ere the fatal deed of crime
Death produc'd, and all our woes ; —
Eve from Eden's rosy bowers,
Adam, wretched exile, strayed,
Doom'd to close life's toilsome hours
In the grave's oblivious shade.
Happy years ! how fast ye roll'd ;
Short was Eden's age of gold ;

Blessed years ! The halcyon bird
Brooded on Time's placid flood,
Till the voice of Hate was heard,
And the earth drank Abel's blood !
Years of peace — of Nature's youth,
Swift on downy wings ye flew,
Calm, as vestal-bosom'd Truth,
Bright, as Hope's celestial view.
Ah ! forever set in night —
What shall renovate your light ?

Mov'd with mercy for the race
Of frail Adam, doom'd to death,

Mighty in redeeming grace,
God restor'd their forfeit breath —
Pity's supplicating eye,
O'er the stern decree prevailed,
Choirs of angels from on high
Christ the Saviour's advent hail'd !
Kneel ! adore the mystic plan ; —
Life's renew'd for ruin'd man !

Love and Virtue, sisters kind,
Then resum'd their gentle sway,
And their empire o'er the mind
Freedom's willing sons obey —
Fir'd with gen'rous zeal to save,
See they dare the wat'ry main,
Snatch the victim from the wave,
Light the vital lamp again —
Heav'n rewards the pious care, —
Life and joy succeed despair !

If Disease with feverish eye,
Haunt the dwelling of the poor,
Watchful Charity is nigh,
With her skill and balm to cure.
Female Orphan, round whose head
Sorrow casts her gloomy shade
See the wholesome table spread,
And a warm Asylum made ; —
'T is thy happy lot, to prove
Gentle WOMAN's guardian love !

When the desolated street
Smokes with ruin, shrieks with grief,
Charity, on eager feet,
Hastens to bestow relief ;
See again the peaceful dome
Rises from the blacken'd ground,
And the wand'ers, gathered home,
Comfort's cheerful hearth surround,
Chaunting hymns of praise to thee,
Queen of Virtues, CHARITY !

The devotional exercises in 1814 were conducted by Rev. Francis Parkman, and "an excellent oration was pronounced by Benjamin Whitwell, Esq."¹ A choir of gentlemen, under the direction of Mr. Horsman, furnished the music, and sang an original ode by John Lathrop, Jr., Esq.

ODE

WRITTEN FOR THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

OF THE

DECEASED PATRONS OF THE INSTITUTION.

By JOHN LATHROP, Jun., Esq.

If on the haughty warrior's brow
 Is plac'd the crown of deathless fame,
 And Earth's applauding Lords bestow
 Their proudest titles on his name ;
 Oh, say, shall Glory's partial hand
 Withhold the meed to Pity due,
 When plaintive Sorrow's grateful band
 For wreaths to deck their patrons sue ?
 A tear-enamell'd chaplet weave
 Round BOWDOIN's venerated urn,
 Where all the patriot virtues grieve,
 And votive lamps of Science burn ;
 Sweet Charity on RUSSELL's tomb,
 A shower of vernal flow'rets throws ;—
 And bays of fadeless verdure bloom,
 O'er classick MINOR's calm repose.
 Religion lights her hallow'd fire,
 Where pious STILLMAN's relics rest ;—
 New-England's worthies grace the pyre,
 Whence BELKNAP soared, for ever blest !

¹ Columbian Centinel, May 28, 1814.

Benjamin Whitwell was graduated at Harvard College in 1790, and was a counsellor at law. He delivered a poem before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Cambridge in 1806, and was one of the "Boston Orators."

Why mourns the Muse with tearful eyes
While pondering o'er the roll of death?
Afresh her keenest sorrows rise,
With EMERSON's departed breath !

Ah ! Heaven again demands its own,
Another fatal shaft is sped,
And Genius, Friendship, Learning, mourn
Their BUCKMINSTER among the dead !
To ELIOT's tomb, ye Muses, bring
Fresh roses from the breathing wild,
Wet with the tears of dewy Spring,
For he was Virtue's gentlest child !

Ye sainted spirits of the just,
Departed friends, we raise our eyes,
From humble scenes of mould'ring dust,
To brighter mansions in the skies —
Where FAITH and HOPE, their trials past,
Shall smile in endless joy secure,
And CHARITY's blest reign shall last,
While Heaven's eternal courts endure.

George Sullivan, Esq., was selected to give the address in 1815, but, as he declined, Isaac F. Coffin¹ was chosen in his place, and he delivered "an appropriate and classical discourse," at which "the assembly was respectable, and the collection liberal."² Rev. Dr. Kirkland conducted the devotional services, and an anniversary ode and other musical exercises were provided.

"No person having been appointed to deliver an address," the annual meeting of 1816 adjourned without the usual anniversary exercises.

In the succeeding year, 1817, the usual exercises were

¹ Isaac F. Coffin was the author of "Journal of a Residence in Chili."

² Columbian Centinel, October 14, 1815.

provided for the twenty-third anniversary, and Francis C. Gray, Esq.,¹ delivered an oration, in which he reviewed the work of the Society, and especially congratulated its members upon the success which had attended their efforts in promoting the safety of the town.

Mr. Gray's was the last address delivered before the Society in accordance with the Rules. No reasons for the discontinuance of the addresses are recorded, but the Secretary, in the report of the annual meeting of the Society held in October, 1818, simply notes that "no person having been appointed to deliver an address at this meeting, the meeting was dissolved." At the next meeting of the Government, in April of the following year, a committee was appointed "to write an address to the public, stating the principles and objects of this institution, to solicit aid from our country brethren, and transmit a copy to each town of the commonwealth." This action would seem to indicate a purpose to bring the Society to the public attention, and to secure contributions in a different way, and perhaps by less expensive means than were entailed by the public meetings.

The article of the Constitution requiring the delivery of an annual address before the Society was repealed in 1823.

The Constitution of the Society specified that the object of the annual discourse should be "expressive of the

¹ Francis Calley Gray, a counsellor at law, was an accomplished writer and an eloquent orator. He served as a member of both branches of the State Legislature and also of the Council, and besides holding many other public positions was President of the Boston Athenæum, a Trustee of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and one of the Fellows of Harvard College.

advantages arising from Charitable Institutions." True to this injunction the successive orators and poets made the claims of charity the basis of their addresses and poems, and with a vigorous eloquence they urged the citizens of the town to the public and private practice of benevolence and philanthropy. In accordance with the customs of that day, the orators abounded in classical allusions, and the examples of the past were frequently invoked by them in studied periods. From the general subject of charity, the speakers usually proceeded to more particular topics. Many took occasion to remind their hearers of the blessings which were flowing upon them from the Federal Constitution, and the lofty character of Washington was held forth for fervent and enthusiastic admiration. "Adams and Liberty," and the importance of the cultivation of patriotism and a lofty public spirit were favorite themes, while repeated warnings were uttered against France as a dangerous source of private license, political intrigue, and party rancor.

In most cases the speakers made the general subject prefatory to urging the specific objects of the Society, the alleviation of private suffering, the stimulation of genius and invention, and the awakening of a public opinion promotive of laws and customs for the protection of life and property in the town. The vividness with which the ravages of fire and the constant distress and sufferings from this cause were repeatedly narrated, has already been referred to. The dangers arising from the construction of wooden buildings and the importance of the use of brick and stone in construction, were continually urged upon the inhabitants, as well as the necessity for more stringent legislation and stricter enforce-

ment of the laws. Many suggestions were made as to improved materials and methods of building, not only for greater safety, but for the enhancement of the beauty and attractiveness of the town; means for the prevention and extinguishment of fires were proposed and considered; and various measures for the more efficient relief of the sufferers were discussed. The orators of the Society suggested the possibility of fire-resisting paints, of rendering wood incombustible by chemical preparations, and of the use of non-combustible compositions in building materials; and they urged the adoption of mutual fire insurance.

Alexander H. Everett, in his address in the year 1813, developed at considerable length a project for "consolidating into one grand institution all the literary and charitable associations of this metropolis," suggesting "the erection of a central and convenient building, with a repository for libraries and cabinets, and an amphitheatre for lectures; the institution of courses of instruction, and the encouragement of researches into the useful and elegant arts; and the diffusion, by public meetings among the people, of an interest in laudable pursuits of every kind,"—thus "to enlarge and elevate the views of the citizens, to diminish the importance of wealth, and repress the bitterness of party, and, in general, to direct the thoughts to the glorious objects of wisdom and charity."

The later addresses contain many congratulations to the Society for the large work it had accomplished, not only by the great relief which it had afforded to individual sufferers in the distribution of its funds, but also by the success of its efforts in the stimulation of discoveries

for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, and especially on account of the larger influence it exerted in the encouragement and enforcement of provisions for the construction of buildings of brick and stone.

These discourses and poems, and the various accounts given of the exercises at these annual meetings, are of themselves proof of the large and beneficent influence which the Society exerted upon public opinion and action.

Several of the orators bore specific witness to the public influence and the success which attended the efforts of the Society.

John Quincy Adams, in his address in 1802, was earnest in his commendation of the results which the Society had accomplished : —

“In securing yourselves, you secure your fellow-citizens, your neighbors, your friends. You have the double enjoyment of partaking the benefit, and seeing it shared by others. You are aiming not only to enlarge the sphere of your own gratifications, but to add high value to the inheritance of posterity. This spur will be peculiarly pointed and forcible to your minds, when you consider that it is not mere property, but the inestimable blessing of security ; not merely more durable tenements, but more rational peace of mind ; not merely riches of slate and brick, which like other riches may take to themselves wings and fly away, but the riches of quiet and contentment ; the infallible increase of positive happiness, by the removal of constant danger and continual anxiety ; the ‘sober certainty of waking bliss,’ that you are adding to the birthright of your children. It is this, gentlemen, in which consists the most important excellence of your institution. Your immediate charities, as they tend to the relief of existing misery, are amiable and respectable ; but the effects of your influence to secure the efficacy of those salutary laws, which are to remove the principal cause of our danger, will make you the benefactors of posterity, and entitle you to the gratitude of all future

ages. Fellow-citizens! you who are present here merely as spectators, and are not members of the association, is this exaggerated praise? Bring the question home to your own hearts, and the Society may confidently await your decision."

Mr. Everett, in his address above mentioned, recalling the fact that John Quincy Adams, eleven years before, when "alluding to the boast of Augustus, that he found the Roman metropolis of brick, and should leave it of marble," had scarcely dared to express the hope that the ambition of the members of this Society would extend so far as to leave Boston where that emperor began with his capital, confidently declared that "if that eloquent orator could leave for a moment the distant land, where he is now engaged in the service of his country, and take a view of the present situation of this town, he would be surprised and delighted at the revolution produced by the lapse of so small a number of years." One of the principal objects of the Society, said Mr. Everett, had been to increase the safety and beauty of the town by promoting the erection of brick instead of wooden buildings; and now "wood has long since disappeared from your public buildings, and a large proportion of your private houses; and even brick begins to yield its place to granite and marble."

Edward Gray appended to his address, as printed in 1804, the following note: —

"Among other advantages of this Charitable Institution may be mentioned the addresses of its Orators in former years; by whose reason and eloquence, added to what was displayed at our Town Meetings, the Inhabitants of this Town (perhaps not less than by their own sufferings) were led to a just conception of their permanent interests; which originated that excellent Law to secure Boston from damage by fire, which passed February 9, 1803."

Francis C. Gray, in the last address delivered before the Society, spoke at length of its accomplishments : —

“The measures,” said Mr. Gray, “recommended by the Society were cheerfully adopted and steadily persisted in ; the wholesome provisions of the antient law were re-enacted and enforced. And what has been the consequence? In the short period of twenty-three years about two thousand buildings of brick have been erected, the best means have been adopted for repelling as well as avoiding the attacks of this calamity, and our townsmen are now comparatively secure, — so secure that they hardly recollect their former danger.”

In alluding to the founders of the Society, he declared : —

“The best evidence of the wisdom of their project, and the ability with which it has been carried into effect, may be found in its success.”

Recurring to the other branch of the work undertaken, he added : —

“Your fidelity and ingenuity in administering your funds for the use of the poor is acknowledged by all. It is well known that your ability to do good is doubled by the discretion with which it is exercised.”

The passage of the Statutes of 1797, 1798, and 1803, “to secure the town of Boston from damage by fire,” was undoubtedly promoted by the strong public opinion excited by these annual meetings, seconded by the active efforts of the members of the Society. These acts contained carefully framed provisions for the regulation of building in Boston in a manner to secure a larger degree of safety and immunity, instead of general and sweeping prohibitions which could not be generally enforced ; and there were included several wholesome regulations for

preventing the kindling of fires. They also contained provisions for the prosecution, by State and county officers, of persons guilty of violating their requirements. They constituted the beginning of those enactments which have from time to time since been made to govern the erection of buildings in this city.

The following list contains the names of those who delivered addresses before the Society, with the dates on which the addresses were given : —

1795. George Richards Minot.* †	1805. Peter Thacher.* †
1796. Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. †	1806. John Phillips.
1797. Arnold Welles, Jr.* †	1807. Luther Richardson.
1798. William Tudor.* †	1808. Charles Paine.†
1799. John Davis.* †	1809. Alexander Townsend.* †
1800. Josiah Quincy.	1810. James Richardson.* †
1801. Rev. John Thornton Kirk-	1811. Benjamin Pollard.* †
land.* †	1812. Samuel Hubbard.
1802. John Quincy Adams.*	1813. Alexander H. Everett.* †
1803. Rev. John Sylvester John	1814. Benjamin Whitwell.* †
Gardiner.* †	1815. Isaac F. Coffin.
1804. Edward Gray.†	1817. Francis C. Gray.* †

* Printed address in the possession of the Society.

† Printed address in the Boston Athenæum.

XII. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY AND OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MEETINGS of the Society were from the beginning held twice in each year. At first the annual meeting for the election of officers was held on the Friday following the last Monday in May, and another meeting was held on the third Wednesday in October. In 1815 the time of the annual meeting was changed to the second Friday in October, and that of the other meeting to the second

Friday in April, and these times were continued until 1886, when provision was made that the meetings should be held on the second Fridays of November and May.

The meetings of the corporation were, in its earlier days, when the members were more numerous, usually held in the Senate or Representatives' Chamber of the old State House or in the Court House. In later times they have been held in hotels or in corporation or private offices.

The various duties devolving upon the board of Government, and especially that of investigating and determining applications for individual relief, compelled frequent meetings of that body at such times and places as occasion required.

In the year 1832 the corporation voted that "in consideration of the long and arduous services of the Government of this Society in the well ordering and most faithful management of the funds of this charity," a committee be appointed to provide a dinner for the Government. The Government accordingly partook of a dinner on the 29th of May of that year, at the Norfolk House, in Roxbury. At this meeting of the Government, Trustees of the Boston Lying-in Hospital on behalf of the Society were first chosen.

The custom thus inaugurated was continued for many successive years, and the dinners were usually provided at some place outside the city. The Maverick House, in East Boston; Moseley's, in Dorchester; the Ocean House, at Phillips' Beach; Horn Pond House, in Woburn; Taft's, at Point Shirley; the Spy Pond House, in West Cambridge; Porter's Hotel, in North Cam-

bridge; and hotels at Savin Hill, Plymouth, and Lowell Island, were all visited in successive years.

The Society itself, like several others of the older societies, the most of whose members had been long associated, gradually assumed a more social character. It had acquired traditions and memories which its members cherished, and they sought to knit more closely the friendships which had been fostered by the work which had been undertaken and sustained in common. In the year 1855 it was voted that social meetings be held twice each year, and thenceforth committees were annually appointed to provide the entertainment then to be afforded. On these occasions dinners were partaken, usually at the American House; and although no records of these meetings are preserved, the unwritten report runs that they were prolific of much enjoyment, good fellowship, and of many well told tales.

In the year 1875, however, a vote of the corporation was passed indefinitely postponing the dinners to the Government, and the appointment of the Social Committee of the Society was discontinued.

Since the year 1875 a dinner at a moderate cost has been provided for the Society at the conclusion of the annual meeting, and the members have met in an informal manner, discussed the work of the Society, and renewed the associations of the past, seeking to keep alive the traditions, hallowed by age, clustering around the organization, and to sustain and promote an interest in the objects for which the Corporation was established.

XIII. THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY.

AT the organization of the Society, liberal and generous responses were made to its appeals for contributions, and its income was derived at first from the subscriptions of members, and from the collections made on the occasions of the delivery of the annual discourses. To these sources of income was soon added the interest derived from the invested funds. The first Constitution provided that the interest only of the invested funds should be applied for the objects of the Society; and it was soon further provided that any balance of interest remaining after the expiration of one year unapplied to such objects, should be put into the invested funds as a part of the principal.

Subscriptions and donations amounting to more than \$600 were acknowledged with the first printed publication of the Constitution in 1794, and these receipts had reached a sum exceeding \$1,600 at the annual meeting in 1795.

On the 15th day of June, 1796, Mr. Charles Stewart Powell, the manager of the Boston Theatre, gave the proceeds of a night's entertainment, amounting to \$666.05, to the funds. "The Mountaineer," and a preceding farce, were performed, and Mr. Powell himself on this occasion danced the Dwarf dance and a hornpipe for the benefit of the institution. He accompanied the donation with the request that "it might forever remain in their funds"; and the Society, in return, presented him its thanks for the generous gift, and assured him that the sum should be faithfully applied as designated by him.

In the same year (1796) the Society voted that each member should pay an extra assessment of twelve and one half cents, and that the surplus, after defraying the expenses incurred in the delivery and printing of "Warren's Eulogy on the Honorable Thomas Russell, Esq.," should be paid into the Society's funds; but no greater amount seems to have been received from this source than from the fees first made chargeable for each member's attendance at a meeting.

The Treasurer's report for 1798-99 shows the receipt of \$165.85 from subscriptions and assessments; of \$230.32 from the contribution at the chapel; and of \$254.32 as income from the invested funds. The funds invested May 30, 1799, amounted to \$3,981.33. The following year, the subscriptions and assessments amounted to \$171.80; the collections at the chapel, "after deducting two counterfeit dollars," to \$172.58; the income from investments to \$355.99; and the total of investments to \$4,481.33. Twelve years later the assessments yielded \$171.00; the subscriptions of new members, \$6; and the income of the funds, \$1,010.70; while the entire funds amounted to \$13,204.41.

The collections at King's Chapel fell off in the later years of the public addresses, so that the amount in 1813 was only \$98.60; in 1814, \$64.62; in 1815, \$75.86; and in 1817, the last year of the addresses, \$95.50. Inasmuch as, in addition to the printing of the addresses, a practice had obtained of offering compensation to the musical performers, and indeed to the authors of the odes and poems, the balance remaining to the Society had become so small as to cease to be of pecuniary benefit. At the same time, with the introduction of the

policy of reducing the membership, the annual assessments of one dollar each were decreasing in amount, and but little, and in many years nothing, was received from the subscriptions of new members. In 1817 the assessments of one dollar each amounted to \$145.00; in 1820, to \$123.00; in 1822 and 1823, to only \$62 in each year.

In the year 1823 the payment of an annual assessment was done away with. With the exception of the small amounts received from admission fees, the Society has since derived its revenues from the income of its invested funds. The Society's funds in 1823 amounted to \$20,583.38, and the income derived was \$1,224.18. Since that date the funds have generally increased from year to year.

In 1830, the funds amounted to \$25,041.70, income of funds \$1,356.00

1840,	"	"	27,995.97,	"	"	1,585.91
1850,	"	"	40,112.74,	"	"	2,673.00
1860,	"	"	49,739.64,	"	"	2,948.10
1870,	"	"	54,906.75,	"	"	3,825.80
1880,	"	"	59,454.29,	"	"	3,508.46
1890,	"	"	62,086.52,	"	"	2,854.99

The present year (1892) the income of the Society derived from its funds has been \$2,806, and from admission fees \$20, and the funds, reckoning the securities at their par value, now amount to \$62,476.36.

The last printed report (1880) declares with some measure of pride, that, owing "to the careful and judicious manner in which the investments have been made, not a dollar has been lost by mismanagement, and it is believed that all our charities have been bestowed on worthy objects."

XIV. THE EXPENDITURES OF THE SOCIETY.

WHILE it is likely that the larger benefit to the community in the more remote past of the Society, was in the general influence it exerted in the promotion of legislation and the enforcement of laws, in the encouragement of better methods, and the awakening of a more potent public spirit for the protection of the people against the ravages of fire, its more direct benefit has been in the actual relief which it has always afforded to sufferers by fire, and, in later years, in the aid it has also given to general charities in this city.

By its original act of incorporation the direct charity of the Society was restricted to sufferers by fire. The first donation by the Society was of fifty dollars, voted in 1797 to Mr. Norcross, whose dwelling at the West End was burned at the rope-walk fire of that year; a donation of thirty dollars was also voted to Joseph Batson, a sufferer by the same fire. Donations of thirty dollars to Benjamin K. Haggar, and of forty dollars to Mrs. Jane Moncrief, were made subsequently in the same year. Sums, generally less in amount, were from time to time not only voted to inhabitants of Boston, but the assistance of the Society was extended to citizens of other towns of the Commonwealth, and to the "Eastern country," as the District of Maine, then a part of Massachusetts, was termed.

The applications for relief filed with the Society were interesting and often pathetic; and they are evidence of the great distresses which were caused by this devouring element before the days of general fire insurance. Heads

of families lost not only their dwellings and furniture, but the tools with which they gained a livelihood, and widows with children were suddenly left without any means of subsistence. On the other hand, many less deserving are seen to display the thrifty characteristic of seeking to make a misfortune turn to a pecuniary benefit. In the earlier period the board of Government and its special committees found much employment in investigating the various demands made upon the Society's generosity; and the rejection of petitions as well as the granting of assistance indicates the exercise of a wise discretion, and the performance of much conscientious labor.

In 1822, however, a committee of the Government reported that, owing to prudent and judicious management, the funds had increased to twenty thousand dollars; that while, in directing the charity of the Society only to sufferers by fire within the Commonwealth, in accordance with its charter, such relief as the exigencies of the cases required had at all times been afforded, the applications for charitable donations upon the principles of the institution were few and for small amounts. This declaration is certainly significant of the change which had been brought about in the thirty years of the corporation's existence, and was complimentary to the influence which the Society had exerted.

In accordance with the recommendation of the committee, a petition was made to the Legislature for a change in the charter, and an Act was passed in that year authorizing the Society to appropriate a part of its income to any charitable purposes other than those mentioned in the Act of Incorporation, and to such other benevolent institutions within the Commonwealth as the Society or

the Trustees should from time to time deem fit and proper. A further change in the charter, suggested by a proposition for aiding in the establishment of a Lying-in Hospital, was, on the petition of the Society, made by the Legislature in the year 1831, giving it power to appropriate from its invested funds for the same purposes sums not exceeding in any particular case one quarter of the entire principal.

Notwithstanding the larger field opened for the dispensing of its charities by the Acts of the years 1822 and 1831, little if any abatement has been made in the assistance rendered to individual sufferers by fire in the city of Boston. Indeed, during the last ten years a larger amount has been thus distributed than in any preceding ten years of the Society's existence, the sum so contributed having considerably exceeded five thousand dollars.

The first donations under the Act of the year 1822 were made to the Massachusetts General Hospital, to which institution the sum of three hundred dollars, in some years increased to five hundred dollars, was annually contributed for a considerable period. The donations made to this Hospital between the years 1822 and 1859 amounted to seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-five dollars. In return for these contributions, the Hospital gave the Society, a portion of the time at least, the use of free beds, — one bed for each annual contribution of one hundred dollars. The beds were put at the disposal of the officers of the Society, and later the Government assigned them at the discretion of Thomas Restieaux, one of the Trustees.

A still broader work was undertaken by the Society

in the year 1831. A committee of the Humane Society of Massachusetts invited the co-operation of this institution in the erection and support of a Lying-in Hospital for indigent women, the need of such an institution in the city being represented as most urgent. A committee of the Society, consisting of Thomas K. Jones, John Heard, Jr., and Francis J. Oliver, was appointed to act in connection with the Humane Society in taking measures for carrying out this benevolent design. The Act enabling the Society to contribute a portion of its funds to the purpose was obtained, and likewise in the following year an Act incorporating the gentlemen composing the boards of government of the two societies, under the name of the Boston Lying-in Hospital. The sum of five thousand dollars was contributed by each of the societies to this institution, which was then organized, and enabled to begin its useful career. A further donation of twelve hundred dollars from its principal funds was made by this Society to the Hospital in 1839, and many yearly contributions, varying from one hundred and fifty dollars to three hundred dollars, have since been made towards defraying the current expenses of the institution, which is now fulfilling the most sanguine anticipations of the two societies that are to be credited with its existence and have liberally promoted its growth.

In accordance with the By-laws of the Boston Lying-in Hospital, each of the two societies has appointed two trustees to assist in the management. The Trustees first appointed by this Society were Lynde Walter and Samuel Perkins, and among their successors who have rendered valuable services to the Hospital in this capacity have

been James Phillips, Adam W. Thaxter, William T. Andrews, Dr. John W. Warren, Uriel Crocker, and Thomas Restieaux. The present Trustees appointed by this Society are George G. Crocker and James G. Freeman.

In the year 1832, donations were likewise made to the Boston Dispensary and to the Charitable Association of the Boston Fire Department.

In succeeding years the charities of the Society have been much extended, and a large number of the charitable and philanthropic institutions of the city of Boston have been at one time or another recipients of its bounties.

The Society has also extended its helpful aid on several special occasions. During the progress of the War of the Rebellion five hundred dollars were given to the Sanitary Commission, and three hundred dollars to the people of East Tennessee. Shortly afterwards five hundred dollars were contributed to the people of the South, and various other contributions were made to the Freedmen. The sufferers by the disastrous flood in Mill River Valley in 1874 were given five hundred dollars. The victims of the great fire in Portland in 1866 were voted five hundred dollars, the sufferers of the Chicago fire in 1871 received one thousand dollars, and five hundred dollars were dispensed to the people of Marblehead after their great fire in 1877.

During the past year (1891-92) the Society has distributed to individual sufferers by fire, \$835; to veterans of the late war, \$50; and to various charitable institutions, \$1,750; — a total of \$2,635.

The amount distributed to individual sufferers by fire by the Society since its establishment has reached

nearly *thirty-three thousand dollars*; charitable and benevolent institutions in this community have received more than *ninety-seven thousand dollars*; and about *four thousand dollars* have been distributed in special emergencies. The donations of the Society for the relief of sufferers by fire and for other charitable purposes have exceeded *one hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars*. The records of the Society, showing in what manner this large sum has been from year to year expended, conclusively prove that the whole has been carefully, worthily, and wisely bestowed.

XV. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

The first "Constitution" of the Society, which was adopted on January 21, 1793, is not preserved. Amendments to this constitution were early in the following year found to be necessary, and a revised constitution was adopted on March 6, 1794, and this is spread upon the records. Upon the incorporation of the Society, later in that year, a further revision was made, and the following were, on September 17, 1794, adopted as the "Laws and Regulations of the Society":—

Laws and Regulations of the Society.

THE consideration of the numerous advantages which society derives from institutions calculated to direct the principle of benevolence to certain definite objects, hath induced the members of this Society to attempt the relief of such persons belonging to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as may suffer by the devastation of Fire, and to stimulate genius to useful discoveries tending to secure life and property on such melancholy occasions. Having obtained from the Legislature of this Commonwealth an

Act of Incorporation, with power to ordain Laws and Regulations to carry these designs into execution, we have agreed on those which follow, viz. : —

ARTICLE I.

It shall ever be the object of this Institution to relieve such of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as may unfortunately suffer by Fire, provided this Society shall think them deserving of their Charity ; and to reward the Industry and Ingenuity of those who may invent useful machines for extinguishing Fire, or make extraordinary personal exertion in the time of such calamity, or make such discoveries for preventing its devastation as shall be thought worthy of their patronage.

ARTICLE II.

There shall be two meetings of this Society in every year, both of which shall be held in the town of Boston, viz. : one on the Friday next following the last Wednesday in May ; and the other on the third Wednesday in November.

ARTICLE III.

This society shall have a Government consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Board of eight Trustees, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, and a Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of this Society shall be chosen annually at their meeting in May by the members assembled and by written votes.

ARTICLE V.

At every annual election of officers a Committee shall be appointed for the examination of all such machines or inventions as come within the object of this Institution, and it shall consist of persons distinct from the Government of this society ; and no premium shall be adjudged but on a certificate from the said Committee certifying the utility, novelty, and originality of the machine or invention.

ARTICLE VI.

The President, or in his absence the Vice President, or in their absence the Treasurer, shall have power to call special meetings of the Government of this Society, and by their advice or at the written request of any twelve members of this Society, a meeting of the Society at large, when business, in their opinion, shall be of such importance as to require it.

ARTICLE VII.

At any meeting of this Society, or of the Government thereof, in case of the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer for the time being shall preside; and the person presiding shall not be allowed a vote in any instance, unless there shall be a tie of the other members, in which case he shall have it in his power to give a casting vote.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Government of this Society or a Majority of them, assembled on due notice, shall be vested with power to act on all business pertaining to the Society, subject to the following restrictions, viz.:—

Restriction 1st. The Interest only arising from the Society's Funds shall be applied to Charitable purposes, and the payment of such premiums as are calculated to further the benevolent principles of this Institution.

Restriction 2d. Charitable Donations shall be made to those only who may have suffered by fire, and who at the time of their suffering shall be inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Restriction 3d. No Premium for any machine or invention shall be granted, but on full and satisfactory proof of its being new and original. And no person shall receive a premium for any such machine or invention, unless he shall publicly make known the principles and methods of its construction and use.

Restriction 4th. The whole amount of the premiums granted in any one year shall not exceed one tenth part of the interest arising from the Funds in that year.

ARTICLE IX.

The Treasurer shall give good and sufficient Bonds, with sureties in such penalty as the Government of the Society may direct, for the faithful performance of his Duty, and particularly to account for and pay over all monies which may come to his hands. He shall not pay away any of the Society's money without a written order from the presiding officer, countersigned by one of the secretaries. He shall keep a true account of all receipts and payments, and the same shall be kept in dollars and cents. His accounts shall be annually examined by auditors, who shall be appointed at the meeting in November, and make their report to the meeting in May.

ARTICLE X.

No person shall be eligible for the office of Treasurer more than five years successively, and in case of the removal of the Treasurer from his office by death, absence, indisposition, or otherwise, the President or presiding officer shall personally fill the office of Treasurer until his return or another is chosen.

ARTICLE XI.

The Interest shall remain one year, to be applied by the Government agreeably to the principles of this Institution, but in case there shall be no occasion for the application thereof, it shall at the expiration of the year be put into the funds, and considered ever afterwards as part of the principal.

ARTICLE XII.

Once in every year, viz., on the Friday next following the last Wednesday in May, a Public Discourse, Expressive of the advantages arising from Charitable Institutions, shall be delivered before the Society by some person to be appointed by the Government for that purpose, at which time a collection shall be made for the benefit of the Society's Funds.

ARTICLE XIII.

Any person who wishes to become a Member of this Institution may make application to the Recording Secretary, or either

of the Trustees, or any committee appointed to receive subscriptions, and upon such application being made, his name shall then be recorded, and he from that time considered as a member.

ARTICLE XIV.

Each member, on being admitted, shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer one Dollar and Fifty cents, or such larger sum as he may please; and annually, at the meeting in May, one Dollar, which sums shall be appropriated to the benefit of the Society's Funds.

ARTICLE XV.

Any person belonging to this Society, who shall refuse to observe the Laws and Regulations of the same, and so continue for three years, shall not after that time be considered as a member.

ARTICLE XVI.

Notice shall be given by the Recording Secretary of the Statute Meetings of this Society in two of the Boston newspapers, at least fourteen days prior to the time of their coming together.

ARTICLE XVII.

Once in three years a Book shall be printed containing the Laws and Regulations of this Society, a Catalogue of its Members, the sums they may subscribe, and an account of all donations that may be received in the aforesaid term, together with the names of the Donors, and such other papers as the Government may judge requisite; and each member shall be entitled to two copies.

ARTICLE XVIII.

A Record of all the proceedings of this Society, and of the Government thereof, shall be kept by the Recording Secretary, and shall from time to time be laid before the Society at their Statute Meetings.

The principal changes made in the constitution of the Society by the new Laws and Regulations, were the limitation of its contributions to the inhabitants of this Commonwealth; the establishment of the Committee on Machines; the raising of the annual assessment from fifty cents to one dollar; the addition of Article XI., providing for the application to the principal of all income remaining unexpended after one year; the appointment of auditors; and the imposing of the restrictions upon the powers of the Government contained in Article VIII. The new laws also singularly omitted the provisions providing for future amendments which were contained in the old constitution.

In the year 1815, a committee having obtained "the opinions of gentlemen learned in the law" that alterations in the constitution could be made, it was voted that the time of the annual meeting should be changed from May to the second Friday in October, and that of the other meeting from November to the second Friday in April.

Further amendments were made at the annual meeting in 1823, repealing the second Restriction of Article VIII., which limited charitable donations to those who were sufferers by fire only, and who were inhabitants of this Commonwealth; and also repealing Article XII., providing for the annual discourse. The requirement of an annual assessment was done away with, and the admission fee was increased to five dollars.

At the semiannual meeting of the Society held in 1838, it was voted "that in consequence of the present Bye-Laws of the Society wanting some additions, a committee be appointed to have a new edition published,

with such alterations and additions as the said committee may think expedient: John Heard, Esq., Francis J. Oliver, Esq., Samuel Perkins, Esq., Committee." This is the only allusion in the Records to a revision being then made, but a copy of the "Constitution" of the Society, printed in 1838, has been preserved, and this evidently was thereafter taken as the legally adopted constitution. The committee, however, exercised sparingly the unlimited discretion given to them. They altered the Preamble and Article I. to correspond to the larger powers given the Society by the Acts of the Legislatures of 1822 and 1831, inserted a provision for filling vacancies in the list of officers, and omitted Article XV., prescribing a forfeiture of membership in case of a refusal for a continued period of three years to observe the laws and regulations of the Society.

In April, 1849, an important alteration was made relative to the admission of members, by which an application for membership was required to be acted upon by the Corporation, and three quarters of the votes of the members present were made necessary for admission.

At the annual meeting in October of 1850, it was further required that applications for membership should first be laid before the Trustees, and only upon receiving three fourths of the votes of the Trustees present should be brought before the Corporation for its action. At this meeting, it was also provided that no person should be eligible to the office of President or Treasurer more than five years successively.

In 1851 a committee consisting of David Kimball, William T. Andrews, and Solomon Hovey was appointed to revise the constitution. The committee re-

ported, in April and May of 1852, alterations in various articles, and on May 14, 1852, the new code of By-Laws recommended by them was adopted "in lieu of all previous Laws and Regulations." This revision omitted the Preamble, and the more important alterations made were the change of the entrance fee to fifteen dollars, the limitation of the number of members to fifty, and the adoption of an article providing for amendments to the constitution by a majority of two thirds of the members present at meetings of the corporation called for the purpose.

Again in 1861 a committee consisting of David Kimball, A. A. Wellington, and Solomon Hovey presented a revised code of By-Laws, which was adopted at a special meeting held on the twenty-eighth day of January in that year. A new Preamble, which was substantially the same as the Preamble now existing, was adopted, and the changes were more radical than those which had hitherto been made. Two votes were made sufficient to defeat an application for membership both in the Government and the corporation, and the entrance fee was raised to twenty dollars; a quorum of the Society was made to consist of ten members; the eligibility of the President was limited to two successive years, and salaries of one hundred dollars and fifty dollars were voted respectively to the Treasurer and Recording Secretary. The old "Restrictions" upon the powers of the Government were repealed, and there was left to a majority of that body "full power to act upon all business pertaining to the corporation." Specific provisions, however, were adopted, prescribing the manner in which the funds should be invested, and prohibiting any appropriation or expenditure reducing

the amount below fifty thousand dollars. Provision was also made for the annual election of three members of the Government as a Finance Committee to take charge of the investments. For amendments to the By-Laws there was required a three-fourths vote of those present at a meeting ordered by the Corporation, and called by a written notice seven days at least previous to the meeting.

A slight amendment was made at the annual meeting of 1874, doing away in all cases with notification of meetings by publication in newspapers, and requiring at least seven days' notice by mail.

Changes were again sought in 1875, and Samuel F. McCleary, John P. Healy, and William F. Davis were appointed to report a new draft of By-Laws, with such changes as they might deem expedient. The new draft was submitted to the Corporation at the meeting in April, 1876, and adopted substantially as reported. The principal change made was in the establishment of a Committee on Donations, to consist of three members of the Society, and to be annually elected, who should have authority to expend from the income of the fund a sum, not exceeding fifty dollars in any one case, to worthy sufferers by fire in Boston, and also authority, subject to the approval of the Government, to donate to any benevolent or charitable societies in Boston sums not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars in each case. It was further provided that no sum exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars should be appropriated for any object without a vote of the corporation. The provision relating to the ineligibility of the Treasurer for re-election after five successive years was omitted, and that officer's salary was increased to two hundred dollars.

A further revision of the By-Laws was presented for the consideration of the corporation at the annual meeting in 1880, by a committee consisting of David P. Kimball, Samuel F. McCleary, and Henry A. Whitney, and again a new code, as recommended by them, was adopted. By this revision the appointment of a Committee on Machines was given up, and the duties of the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries were merged in one Secretary; five instead of seven days' previous notice of a meeting was required; four dissenting votes were made necessary to defeat a candidate for membership, both in the Government and the corporation, and the entrance fee was reduced to five dollars; and the investment of funds was made subject to the provisions of the laws of the Commonwealth relative to the investments of Savings Banks.

The revision of 1880 was the last general revision of the By-Laws, and they now stand with the few amendments which have since been made.

At the annual meeting in 1883, a provision was made for including the names of candidates for membership in the notices of the meetings of the Government and Corporation at which candidates were to be considered. A slight amendment was made at the annual meeting in 1884 relative to the mode of the assignment and discharge of mortgages. At the annual meeting of the following year it was made the duty of the Secretary to compile a short sketch of the life of each member upon his decease. In April, 1886, the time of the annual meeting was changed to the second Friday in November, and that of the other meeting to the second Friday in May.

The various alterations which have been made in the constitution of the Society are interesting in the way of showing the changes which have occurred in the character and operations of the Society, and they indicate the various steps which have been taken in reaching the position which the Society now occupies. The By-Laws as they now stand are to be found on subsequent pages.

XVI. THE CERTIFICATE AND SEAL OF THE SOCIETY.

The Society seems very soon after its incorporation to have made use of the form of certificate of membership of which a facsimile has been made and is here given. This was used for many years, but subsequently gave place to a much larger and more ornate design, containing views of the city of Boston, and ancient and modern fire-engines and other kindred apparatus, surmounted by allegorical representations of the interposition, in fire and charity, of spirits both malign and beneficent. No vote is found in the records respecting the adoption of either form of certificate. The latter design has, the present year, in turn been set aside, and by vote of the Society the original form has been restored to use.

In the year 1798 it was voted by the Corporation that the Trustees be a committee to contrive a device and motto for a seal for the Society. Accordingly Rev. James Freeman, Hon. George R. Minot, Rev. Dr. John Eliot, and Mr. Josiah Quincy were by the Government made a committee to execute the commission given to the Trustees respecting the device and motto for the Society's seal. The seal then adopted, and still in use, contained a device of the rescue of a child from a burning house, and the motto "Succurro," and a facsimile of the seal is printed upon the title page.



Massachusetts
To all Persons to whom

G R E E

The GOVERNMENT of the Massachusetts
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Meeting held in BOSTON, on the four
Seven hundred and ninety-eight
the said Society granting him all the
In Testimony

W^m Alline }
SECRETARY

Charitable Fire Society
from these Presents shall come,
T I N G.

Charitable Fire Society incorporated by a Law
passed in the Year of our LORD 1794; at a
fourteenth day of May One thousand
admitted Mr Nathan Webb a Member of
Rights & Privileges thereunto belonging.
whereof the Seal of the SOCIETY is affixed.

Moses Gill.

PRESIDENT.



XVII. ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

AN ACT for incorporating certain persons into a Society, by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

WHEREAS Moses Gill, George Richards Minot, Oliver Smith, James Freeman, James Bowdoin, William Scollay, John Lucas, and Arnold Welles, Jr., in behalf of themselves and others associating with them, have petitioned this Court to be incorporated for the purpose of relieving such as may suffer by fire, and of stimulating genius to useful discoveries, tending to secure the lives and property of their fellow-men from destruction by that element :

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

That the persons above named and their associates be, and hereby are, incorporated into and made a body politic, by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, for the purposes aforesaid, and shall have perpetual succession by the said name, with power to make by-laws and regulations for the preservation and advancement of the said Society, not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth, with penalties, either of disfranchisement from the said Society, or of a mulct, not exceeding twenty shillings for each offence, as to the said corporation shall appear best.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said body politic are hereby authorized and empowered to make and use a common seal, and to sue and defend, and are made liable to be sued, by the name aforesaid, in any of the Judicial Courts within this Commonwealth, and are hereby licensed and empowered to make purchases, and to receive grants, subscriptions, and donations of real and personal estate, and to hold the same for the charitable purposes aforesaid, provided the income of the said real and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand pounds annually, and to alien and convey such estate as to the said corporation shall appear fit.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said body politic be and are hereby authorized to meet annually, on such day as they may appoint, and then to choose such officers as to them may appear necessary, and to meet at such other times for filling up vacancies occasioned by death or resignation of officers or otherwise, and for transacting all other business requisite for promoting the ends of the said corporation, as by them shall be agreed upon.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That his Honor, Moses Gill, Esquire, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to call the first meeting of the said corporation, at such place in the town of Boston as to him may appear proper, on the fourth Tuesday of July next.

June 25, 1794. By the Governor, approved.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

XVIII. ADDITIONAL ACTS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two.

AN ACT, in addition to an Act entitled "An Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, or the Trustees of the same, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate and dispose of such part of the interest accruing from the funds of said Society, to any other charitable purpose or purposes than those mentioned in the Act entitled "An Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society," and to such benevolent institutions within this Commonwealth as the Trustees of the said Society, or a major part of them, shall from time to time deem fit and proper, provided, however, that no donation or appropriation of

the interest as aforesaid shall exceed the sum of three hundred dollars at any one time, or to any one charitable purpose to benevolent institution, until the same shall have received the approbation and consent of the said Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, at a meeting duly notified and holden for that purpose.

Approved by the Governor, Feb. 16, 1822.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

AN ACT, in addition to an "Act incorporating certain persons into a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society be and they hereby are authorized to appropriate and dispose of such part of the funds of said Society to any other charitable purpose or purposes than those mentioned in their Act of Incorporation, and to such benevolent institutions within this Commonwealth as they may have already designated by their vote or votes, or shall hereafter, from time to time, deem fit and proper to designate, at any meeting duly called for such purpose, provided that such appropriation shall not exceed twenty-five per centum of the whole capital stock of said Society; and provided also, it shall in no case affect the bequests of any individual who has bequeathed or may bequeath any legacy to said Society.

June 11, 1831. Approved.

LEVI LINCOLN.

XIX. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION.

Presidents.

MOSES GILL	1794-1800
GEORGE RICHARDS MINOT . . .	1800-1802
ARNOLD WELLES	1802-1817
THOMAS KILBY JONES	1817-1832
JOHN HEARD, JR.	1832-1839
FRANCIS JOHONNOT OLIVER . . .	1839-1841
EBENEZER TURELL ANDREWS . .	1841-1849
JAMES PHILLIPS	1849-1850
ADAM WALLACE THAXTER . . .	1850-1854
WILLIAM TURELL ANDREWS . . .	1854-1859
WILLIAM ADAMS	1859-1861
ALFRED AUGUSTUS WELLINGTON	1861-1863
ENOCH HOBART	1863-1864
JOHN W. WARREN	1864-1866
DAVID KIMBALL	1866-1868
BENJAMIN BEAL	1868-1870
MOSES KIMBALL	1870-1872
CHARLES LEIGHTON	1872-1874
SOLOMON HOVEY	1874-1876
URIEL CROCKER	1876-1878
PAUL ADAMS	1878-1880
THOMAS RESTIEAUX	1880-1882
JOSEPH FAULKNER HOVEY . . .	1882-1884
SAMUEL PARKMAN OLIVER . . .	1884-1886
FREDERIC WALKER LINCOLN . .	1886-1888
WILLIAM FARRIE DAVIS	1888-1890
GEORGE GLOVER CROCKER . . .	1890-1892
SAMUEL FOSTER McCLEARY . . .	1892

Vice Presidents.

George Richards Minot	1794-1800
Arnold Welles	1800-1802
William Tudor	1802-1805
Thomas Kilby Jones	1805-1817
James White	1817-1824
John Heard, Jr.	1824-1832
Francis Johonnot Oliver	1832-1839
Ebenezer Turell Andrews	1839-1841
Lynde Walter	1841-1844
James Phillips	1844-1849
Adam Wallace Thaxter	1849-1850
William Turell Andrews	1850-1854
William Adams	1854-1859
Alfred Augustus Wellington	1859-1861
John W. Warren	1861-1864
David Kimball	1864-1866
Benjamin Beal	1866-1868
Moses Kimball	1868-1870
Charles Leighton	1870-1872
Solomon Hovey	1872-1874
Uriel Crocker	1874-1876
Paul Adams	1876-1878
Thomas Restieaux	1878-1880
Joseph Faulkner Hovey	1880-1882
Samuel Parkman Oliver	1882-1884
Osmyn Brewster	1884-1886
William Farrie Davis	1886-1888
David Pulsifer Kimball	1888-1890
John Wells Cumings	1890-1891
Frederick Augustus Wellington	1891-

Recording Secretaries.

William Alline	1794-1821
James W. Burdett	1821-1847
Solomon Hovey	1847-1849
Enoch Hobart	1849-1860
David Pulsifer Kimball	1860-1880

Corresponding Secretaries.

James Freeman	1794-1804
William Emerson	1804-1807
Joseph Stevens Buckminster	1807-1813
Asa Eaton	1813-1819
John Phillips	1819-1823
John Heard	1823-1824
Lynde Walter	1824-1832
Samuel Foster McCleary	1832-1852
Washington Parker Gregg	1852-1880

Secretaries.

David Pulsifer Kimball	1880-1883
Henry Harrison Sprague	1883-

Treasurers.

Oliver Smith	1794-1797
James White	1797-1802
David West	1802-1804
Ebenezer Gay	1804-1805
Francis Wright	1805-1806
Joshua Thomas	1806-1810
Andrew Sigourney	1810-1816
James W. Burdett	1816-1821
Joseph Lovering	1821-1826
Francis Johnnot Oliver	1826-1831
Joseph Lovering	1831-1835
John Cotton	1835-1837
Samuel Perkins	1837-1842
Adam Wallace Thaxter	1842-1847
William Turell Andrews	1847-1848
Adam Wallace Thaxter	1848-1849
Solomon Hovey	1849-1854
Joseph F. Hovey	1854-1855
Solomon Hovey	1855-1860
Thomas Restieaux	1860-1865
Alfred Augustus Wellington	1865-1870
Frederick Augustus Wellington	1870-1874
Charles Bradley Cumings	1874-

Trustees.

James Bowdoin	1794-1796
John Lucas	1794-1796
William Tudor	1794-1796
William Scollay	1794-1796
Arnold Welles	1794-1800
Joshua Thomas	1794-1806
Shubael Bell	1794-1819
Josiah Waters	1794-1795
Thomas Kilby Jones	1795-1805
Samuel Stillman	1796-1807
John Eliot	1796-1813
Josiah Quincy	1796-1805
Joseph Callender	1796-1805
William Tudor	1800-1802
James White	1802-1817
Benjamin Russell	1805-1813
Enoch Huse	1805-1815
Joseph Lovering	1805-1821
Francis Wright	1806-1813
William Emerson	1807-1811
Joshua Thomas	1811-1820
Thomas Baldwin	1813-1824
Lynde Walter	1813-1824
George Blanchard	1813-1815
Francis Johnnot Oliver	1815-1826
Francis Parkman	1815-1816
Andrew Sigourney	1816-1820
Arnold Welles	1817-1827
John Heard, Jr.	1819-1823
Joseph Callender	1820-1823
James Phillips	1820-1844
Joseph Coolidge	1821-1837
George Burroughs	1823-1824
Samuel Perkins	1823-1837
Gedney King	1824-1839
Charles H. Jones	1824-1834
Samuel Foster McCleary	1824-1832

Joseph Lovering	1826-1831
William C. Aylwin	1827-1832
Francis Johonnot Oliver	1831-1832
John Cotton	1832-1835
Willard Badger	1832-1842
Joseph P. Bradlee	1832-1838
Daniel Messenger	1834-1846
Joseph Lovering	1835-1848
John Cotton	1837-1838
Joseph Warren Revere	1837-1838
Ebenezer Turell Andrews	1838-1839
Adam Wallace Thaxter	1838-1842
William Turell Andrews	1838-1847
Washington Parker Gregg	1839-1852
Lynde Walter	1839-1840
Enoch Hobart	1841-1849
William Adams	1842-1854
Samuel Perkins	1842-1846
John W. Warren Jr.	1844-1861
Ruel Baker	1846-1848
Solomon Hovey	1846-1847
Adam Wallace Thaxter	1847-1848
Alfred Augustus Wellington	1847-1859
Ephraim Harrington	1848-1854
William Turell Andrews	1848-1850
Ezekiel Bates	1848-1849
Benjamin Beal	1849-1866
David Kimball	1849-1864
James Phillips	1850-1853
William Eaton	1852-1859
Thomas Restieaux	1853-1860
Solomon Hovey	1854-1855
Moses Kimball	1854-1868
Henry G. Clark	1855-1870
William Turell Andrews	1859-1860
Charles Leighton	1859-1870
Solomon Hovey	1860-1872
Enoch Hobart	1860-1863

Uriel Crocker	1861-1874
Alfred Augustus Wellington	1863-1865
Paul Adams	1864-1876
Thomas Restieaux	1865-1878
Lewis Rice	1866-1877
David Kimball	1868-1873
Joseph F. Hovey	1870-1880
Samuel Parkman Oliver	1870-1882
Charles J. F. Sherman	1872-1879
Bradley N. Cumings	1873-1876
Willam Eaton	1874-1876
Osmyn Brewster	1876-1884
Clement A. Walker	1876-1883
William Farrie Davis	1876-1886
John Plummer Healy	1877-1882
Lemuel Cushing Kimball	1878-
Henry Austin Whitney	1879-1889
Washington Parker Gregg	1880-1892
Henry Brigham Rice	1882-
George Glover Crocker	1882-1890
David Pulsifer Kimball	1883-
John Wells Cumings	1884-1891
J. Otis Wetherbee	1886-
James Goldthwait Freeman	1889-
Frederic Walker Lincoln	1889-
Frank William Andrews	1890-
Harvey Newton Shepard	1892-

Committee on Machines.

Thomas Dawes	1794-1796
Paul Revere	1794-1796, 1798-1818
Benjamin Dearborn	1794-1800, 1801-1819
Jeremy Belknap	1794-1796
Richard Gridley, Jr.	1794-1796
William Walter	1796-1800
Josiah Waters	1796-1797
Arnold Welles, Jr.	1797-1798
John Lathrop	1800-1816

Caleb Bingham	1800-1801
Thomas B. Waite	1816-1819
Benjamin T. Welles	1818-1819
Redford Webster	1819-1820
Gedney King	1819-1823
Joseph W. Revere	1819-1837, 1839-1846
Joseph P. Bradley	1820-1832
Charles H. Jones	1823-1826
John Cotton	1826-1832
Washington Parker Gregg	1832-1839
Alfred Welles	1832-1846
Lemuel Blake	1837-1846
Ephraim Harrington	1846-1848
Ezekiel Bates	1846-1848, 1849-1871
Alfred Augustus Wellington	1846-1847
Benjamin Beal	1847-1849
David Kimball	1848-1849
William Eaton	1848-1852
Samuel C. Nottage	1849-1852
Moses Kimball	1852-1854
Thomas Restieaux	1852-1853
Paul Adams	1853-1864
Charles Leighton	1853-1859
Henry G. Clark	1853-1855
Billings Briggs	1854-1869
Uriel Crocker	1855-1861
Joseph Faulkner Hovey	1855-1860, 1861-1870
Isaac Cary	1859-1867
Lewis Rice	1864-1866
Samuel Parkman Oliver	1866-1870
Charles J. F. Sherman	1867-1872
Bradley N. Cumings	1869-1873
William Eaton	1870-1874
Osmyn Brewster	1870-1876
Clement A. Walker	1871-1876
William Farrie Davis	1872-1876
John P. Healy	1873-1877
Lemuel Cushing Kimball	1874-1878



N^o 3.
Nathan Webb
1792



Henry Austin Whitney	1876-1879
Charles Amos Cummings	1877-1881
Samuel Foster McCleary	1878-1880
Frederic Walker Lincoln	1879-1880

Committee on Donations.

Solomon Hovey	1876-1880
Thomas Restieaux	1876-1880
Samuel Parkman Oliver	1876-1880
Frederic Walker Lincoln	1880-1886
Samuel Foster McCleary	1880-1887
Solomon Hovey, Jr.	1880-1884
Joseph Faulkner Hovey	1884-1886
Thomas Sherwin	1886-
Thomas Restieaux, Jr.	1886-
Clinton Viles	1887-

XX. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, PAST AND PRESENT.

The following list contains the names of all those who appear to have become members of the Society, with the date of their admission as nearly as can be ascertained. The names of the earlier members are taken from the lists which were from time to time printed by the Society, and the dates attached to their names are those of the lists in which the names first appear.

Abbot, Samuel	1808	Andrews, Frank Wm. Oct. 12, 1855	
Adams, Paul	April 8, 1853	Andrews, William	1795
Adams, Samuel, Hon.	1795	Andrews, William Turell,	
Adams, Samuel	1795	April 13, 1838	
Adams, Seth.	1795	Ash, William	1794
Adams, Thomas	1795	Austin, Benjamin, Jr.	1795
Adams, William	Jan. 6, 1842	Austin, Daniel	1794
Allen, Jeremiah	1795	Austin, James T.	1838
Alline, Henry	April 13, 1853	Aylwin, William C.	1808
Alline, William	1794		
Ames, Benjamin	1794	Bacon, Josiah	1795
Ames, Nathaniel	1808	Badger, Daniel (Capt. in 1808),	1805
Andrews, Ebenezer Turell	1795	Badger, Willard	1838

Badlam, Stephen, Jr. . . .	1808	Brewster, Osmyn . . .	Oct. 12, 1855
Baker, B. Franklin . . .	Oct. 12, 1849	Bridge, John	1794
Baker, Joseph W.	1795	Briggs, Billings . . .	Oct. 11, 1850
Baker, Ruel	Oct. 14, 1842	Briggs, Enos	1808
Baker, Samuel	1795	Brigham, Benajah . . .	1808
Balch, Nathaniel	1795	Bright, John	1794
Baldwin, Luke	1795	Brimmer, Andrew . . .	1794
Baldwin, Thomas, Rev., D.D.	1795	Bronsdon, Bant	1808
Bangs, Isaiah	April 12, 1850	Brown, Francis H. . .	Nov. 11, 1892
Barret, John	1795	Brown, John	1795
Barrett, George	1805	Brown, Nicolas	1795
Barrett, John (Maj., 1800)	1795	Buckminster, Joseph, Rev.	1794
Bartlett, Thomas, Dr. . . .	1800	Bulfinch, Charles, A.M.	1794
Barton, Samuel	1794	Bulfinch, Thomas, Dr. . .	1794
Bass, Joseph	1805	Bull, John	1795
Bass, William	1795	Burditt, James W. . . .	1821
Batcheldor, Josiah	1794	Burley, Thomas	1805
Bates, Ezekiel	April 10, 1846	Burroughs, George (Dr. in	
Baxter, Daniel, Capt. . . .	1808	1805)	1794
Baxter, Joseph	1794	Burroughs, George	1808
Baxter, Joseph, Jr.	1800	Butman, Matthew (Buteman	
Beal, Benjamin	April 10, 1846	in 1795)	1794
Beal, Benjamin F.	Oct. 21, 1859		
Beals, Christopher	1795	Cades, Peter	1794
Beals, Samuel	1795	Callender, Joseph, Jr. . .	1794
Belknap, Jeremy, Rev., D.D.	1794	Callender, Joseph, Sr. . .	1795
Bell, Ephraim	1794	Campbell, Alexander . . .	1795
Bell, John	1795	Campbell, James	1795
Bell, Shubael	1794	Campbell, Patrick	1800
Bingham, Caleb, A.M. . . .	1794	Capen, Stoddard	1795
Blake, Edward, Jr.	1794	Carlisle, George	1795
Blake, Joseph, Jr.	1795	Cary, Alexander Claxton,	
Blake, Lemuel	1838	Oct. 20, 1871	
Blake, Nathaniel	1795	Cary, Isaac	Oct. 9, 1846
Blake, William P.	1795	Caryl, George	1805
Blanchard, George, Major . .	1805	Cazneau, Edward	1805
Boardman, Thomas S.	1800	Cazneau, Isaac	1794
Bowdoin, Elizabeth, Mrs. . .	1795	Chadwick, Hezekiah . . .	1800
Bowdoin, James, Hon. . . .	1794	Champney, Caleb	1795
Bowman, Edmund (Capt. in		Checkley, John W.	1795
1808)	1795	Cheever, Abijah, Dr. . . .	1794
Bowman, William	1808	Clap, Samuel	1795
Boynton, William	1800	Clap, William	1795
Bradlee, Joseph P.	1832	Clap, William T.	1794
Bradlee, Samuel	1795	Clark, Henry G.	April 8, 1853
Brewer, Thomas	1795	Clark, Jaazaniah T., Capt.	1808

Clark, John, Rev., D.D.	1794	Davis, William Farrie, Oct. 20, 1871	
Clement, Charles (Maj., 1805)	1795	Davis, William Holden,	
Coates, Ezra	1795		Nov. 8, 1889
Coates, John	1795	Dawes, Thomas, Hon.	1794
Cobb, Benjamin	1795	Dearborn, Benjamin	1794
Coffin, John G., Dr.	1805	Deblois, George	1795
Cole, Edward	1794	Deblois, James S.	1794
Coney, Joseph	1808	Deverel, John	1795
Cook, Isaac	1805	Dexter, Aaron, Dr.	1795
Coolidge, Benjamin	1800	Dexter, Andrew	1805
Coolidge, Joseph	1794	Dickman, Joseph	1794
Coolidge, Joseph, Jr.	1805	Dodd, George	1800
Coolidge, William	1794	Dodd, Timothy	1805
Cooper, William	1795	Dodge, John	1794
Copeland, Nathaniel	1795	Dorr, John	1838
Coppins, George T. Nov. 11, 1892		Doubleday, John G.	1794
Cotton, John (Capt. in 1808),	1794	Drew, Job	1805
Coverly, Samuel	1808	Dwelle, Lemuel	1795
Cowdin, John	1847	Duncan, Robert, Jr.	1800
Crocker, Allen	1794		
Crocker, George Glover,		Eaton, Asa, Rev.	1805
	May 9, 1873	Eaton, Ebenezer	1794
Crocker, George Uriel, May 13, 1892		Eaton, Joshua	1794
Crocker, Uriel . . Oct. 11, 1850		Eaton, William	1800
Crocker, Uriel Haskell, April 9, 1886		Eaton, William . . Oct. 14, 1842	
Crosby, William	1794	Eaton, William . . April 13, 1860	
Cummings, Bradley N., April 12, 1861		Eaton, William B.	1794
Cummings, Charles Bradley,		Eaton, William G.	1838
	Oct. 20, 1871	Eckley, Joseph, Rev., D.D. .	1794
Cummings, John Wells, April 9, 1875		Edes, Peter	1794
Cummings, Charles Amos,		Edes, Samuel	1808
	Oct. 20, 1871	Edwards, Abraham	1794
Cunningham, Andrew (Maj.		Edwards, Richard	1805
in 1808)	1795	Eliot, Ephraim (Dr., 1808) .	1795
Cunningham, William	1795	Eliot, John, Rev., D.D. . . .	1795
Cushing, Caleb	1795	Ellis, Calvin	1794
Cushing, Charles, Jr.	1808	Emerson, Wm., Rev.	1807
Cushing, Edward	1795	Emmons, Jacob	1794
Cushing, Thomas (Col., 1800), 1794		Enslen, Frederick, Dr.	1800
		Etheridge, Samuel	1794
Dana, Dexter	1808	Eustis, Jacob	1795
Dana, William	1795	Everett, David	1808
Davis, Amasa	1794		
Davis, Charles	1805	Fales, Samuel	1795
Davis, Charles A. . Oct. 21, 1859		Faxon, Richard	1800
Davis, John (Hon., 1805)	1800	Fennymore, William	1805

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Fessenden, Benjamin, Jr.	1795	Gridley, Richard, Jr.	1794
Field, George G.	Oct. 13, 1882	Gurley, John W.	1800
Fleet, John, Dr.	1794		
Forster, Edward Jacob,		Haggar, Benjamin K. (Hag-	
May 13, 1892		ger in 1800, Hagar in 1808),	1794
Fowle, John	1805	Hall, Caleb B.	1794
Fowle, Nathaniel	1805	Hall, Ezekiel	1795
Fox, John, A.M.	1794	Hall, Nathaniel	1795
Francis, David	1805	Hall, Stephen	1795
Frazier, John B.	1808	Hall, Timothy	1805
Freeman, Horace V.	May 8, 1891	Hallett, George	Oct. 14, 1842
Freeman, James, Rev.	1794	Hammatt, John B.	1805
Freeman, James Goldthwait,		Hammond, Captain	1795
April 11, 1884		Hancock, Ebenezer	1808
Freeman, John	1805	Hancock, Henry K. April 12, 1850	
Frothingham, Edward	1795	Harper, Mr.	1795
		Harrington, Ephraim . Oct. 9, 1846	
Garaux, Francis (Garreaux,		Harris, John	1795
1805)	1800	Harris, Samuel D.	1808
Gardner, John	1795	Harrison, James	1795
Gay, Eben V.	1805	Hartshorn, Caleb	1808
Gay, Ebenezer	1805	Hartshorn, Moses	1795
Gay, Ebenezer V.	1838	Hartshorn, Oliver	1800
Gay, Joel	1794	Harvey, Edward	1808
Getty, Robert	1795	Harvey, John, Capt.	1805
Geyer, Frederick W.	1795	Haskins, John, Jr., A.M.	1794
Gill, Moses, Hon.	1794	Hays, Moses M.	1800
Gilman, Peter	1805	Hayt, Lewis	1795
Gleason, Joseph, Capt.	1794	Hayward, Caleb	1805
Godfrey, Thomas	1800	Hayward, Elijah	1808
Goldthwait, Benjamin	1795	Healy, John Plummer,	
Goodrich, William	1808	Oct. 20, 1871	
Goodridge, Samuel T.	1838	Heard, John, Jr.	1805
Goodwin, Benjamin	1795	Heard, John	1838
Goodwin, Daniel	1795	Hearsey, Levi	1795
Gould, Benjamin Apthorp,		Hersey, John	1805
May 11, 1888		Hewes, John	1808
Gray, Edward	1805	Hills, Edwin A.	Oct. 12, 1883
Gray, Silvanus	1795	Hobart, Arthur William,	
Green, Charles M.	May 13, 1892	Oct. 20, 1871	
Green, James	1795	Hobart, Enoch	1838
Green, Peter	1795	Hodgdon, Alexander	1794
Greenleaf, George R.	1795	Hodgkins, John, Capt.	1805
Greenough, Samuel	1794	Hoffman, John	1808
Gregg, Washington P.	1832	Holbrook, Cyrus, Dr.	1805
Gridley, Richard, Deacon	1794	Holden, Stephen	1805

Holt, Robert	1795	Kimball, Moses	Oct. 12, 1849
Holyoke, Oliver P.	1794	King, Gedney	1805
Homer, Benjamin	1795	Kirkland, John Thornton,	
Homer, Michael, Capt.	1794	Rev., D.D.	1800
Hooton, John	1795	Kirkland, Thomas, Rev.	1795
Hovey, Joseph F.	April 12, 1850	Knight, James R.	1808
Hovey, Solomon	Oct. 22, 1845	Knox, B. C.	1805
Hovey, Solomon, Jr., ...	Oct. 20, 1871	Knox, Robert	1805
Howe, Samuel	1847	Krueger, William Austin,	
Hubbard, Samuel	1814	Oct. 20, 1871	
Hunnewell, Jonathan	1795	Kuhn, Jacob	1795
Hunt, Samuel, A.M.	1794	Kuhn, John	1795
Hunt, Samuel W.	1800		
Hunting, John	1795		
Huse, Enoch	1800		
		Ladd, William	1795
Ingalls, William, Dr.	1795	Langdon, John W.	1795
Ingersoll, Nehemiah	1795	Lane, John M.	1805
Insley, Frederick, Dr.	1794	Larkin, Benjamin	1794
		Larkin, Ebenezer	1794
Jackson, John	1795	Larkin, Isaac	1795
Jackson, Thomas	1808	Lathrop, John, Rev., D.D.	1794
Jackson, William, Dr.	1794	Lathrop, John, Jr.	1794
Jarvis, John	1805	Lawrence, Eber	1805
Jeffery, Patrick (Jeffrey in		Leach, Charles	1805
1805)	1794	Leach, James	1794
Jenkins, John	1795	Leach, William	1795
Johnson, John	1800	Lee, William, Jr.	1795
Johnson, Nathaniel	1794	Leighton, Charles	Oct. 12, 1849
Johnson, Samuel	1794	Leonard, Oliver	1795
Jones, David	1805	Lepean, John	1805
Jones, Joseph	1805	Leverett, William	1794
Jones, Nahan (<i>sic</i>)	1795	Lewis, Amos, Jr.	1795
Jones, Richard, Capt.	1808	Lienow, Henry	1805
Jones, Thomas K.	1794	Lincoln, Bradford	1805
Jutau, John	1795	Lincoln, Frederic W.,	
		Oct. 11, 1850	
Kahler, Jeremiah	1794	Lincoln, Frederic W. Jr.,	
Kast, Frederick	1795	Oct. 10, 1884	
Kelley, Gad	1794	Lincoln, Louis Revere,	
Kendall, Thomas	1795	Nov. 11, 1892	
Kidder, Joseph	1794	Lincoln, Mitchell, Capt.	1805
Kimball, David	July 9, 1847	Lock, Ephraim	1808
Kimball, David P.	Oct. 8, 1858	Lock, Joseph	1805
Kimball, Lemuel Cushing,		Lodge, Matthew	1808
Oct. 20, 1871		Loring, James	1795
		Loring, Jonathan, Jr.	1795

Lothrop, Joshua R., April 13, 1855	Noble, George 1805
Lovejoy, Loyal . . . Oct. 21, 1859	Nolen, Charles 1795
Lovering, Joseph, Jr. 1795	Nolen, Hervey 1808
Lucas, John 1794	Nottage, Samuel C., April 10, 1846
	Noyes, Joseph 1805
Magner, John 1795	
Mallet, Francis 1805	Ober, John P. . . . April 13, 1855
Marston, David S. 1794	Ober, John P., Jr. . . . Oct. 9, 1863
Marston, John 1794	Oliver, Francis J. 1808
Masson, Mamay (Mammy in 1795) 1794	Oliver, Samuel P. . . April 10, 1857
Masters, Thomas 1794	Otheman, Anthony 1795
Masters, William 1795	
Matignon, Francis A., Rev., D.D. 1795	Paddleford, Seth, Hon. . . . 1795
May, Ephraim 1794	Page, Joseph W. 1800
May, John, Jr. 1808	Paine, Charles 1808
McCleary, Samuel F. 1838	Palfrey, John 1795
McCleary, Samuel F., Oct. 20, 1871	Parmater, Ezra (Parmeter, 1800 and 1805) 1795
McKean, Joseph, Rev. 1808	Peck, John 1795
Meed, Elijah 1795	Peirce, Isaac 1800
Messinger, Daniel . . . Oct. 10, 1834	Perkins, Samuel 1795
Messinger, Henry 1805	Peters, A. A., Dr. 1795
Merckell, John H. 1800	Phillips, James 1800
Micklefield, William 1800	Phillips, John, Hon. 1808
Minot, George Richards, Hon. 1794	Pick, John 1794
Minot, John 1794	Pierce, Levi (Peirce in 1800) 1795
Minot, Timothy M. 1795	Pipoon, John (Pipon, 1795) . 1794
Minot, William, Jr. Nov. 12, 1886	Pomroy, Daniel 1808
Mitchell, Phineas 1838	Porter, Jacob 1794
More, Thomas (Moore in 1795-1800) 1794	Powars, Thomas, Capt. (Pow-ers, 1795) 1794
Moriarty, John M. (Joseph in Treasurer's book) April 12, 1850	Powell, Charles Stuart . . . 1794
Morrill, James, Deacon . . . 1808	Powell, William 1794
Morse, Samuel 1805	Prentice, Appleton, A. M. (Prentiss, 1800) 1794
Muller, Mr. 1794	Prince, S., Capt. 1795
Munroe, Israel 1805	Proctor, John 1794
Murray, John, Rev. 1795	Proctor, William B. 1795
Nancrede, Joseph 1795	Quincy, Josiah 1795
Neat, Samuel 1805	Quincy, John W. 1795
New, Robert 1800	
Newell, Joseph 1808	Ransford, Josiah C. (Rainsford in 1808) 1805
Niles, Ebenezer 1794	Raymond, John 1805
Niles, George E. . . . Oct. 12, 1883	Redman, Thomas 1805

Restieaux, Thomas, April 12, 1850	Sherman, Thomas F. Oct. 10, 1884
Restieaux, Thomas, Jr. Oct. 20, 1871	Sherwin, Thomas . Oct. 14, 1881
Revere, John . . . Oct. 12, 1883	Sigourney, Nathaniel . . . 1795
Revere, Joseph 1808	Simmons, Thomas 1794
Revere, Joseph W. (Trustee in 1837) (?) 1838	Smith, Joseph 1800
Revere, Joseph Warren, May 11, 1888	Smith, Nicholas 1805
Revere, Paul, Col. . . . 1794	Smith, Oliver, Dr. . . . 1794
Rice, L. Frederick April 9, 1875	Smith, Samuel 1794
Rice, Henry . . . May 31, 1811	Somes, Nehemiah, Capt. . 1795
Rice, Henry Brigham Oct. 20, 1871	Sprague, Henry Harrison, Oct. 14, 1881
Rice, Lewis . . . April 11, 1856	Stackpole, William . . . 1794
Richards, Giles 1795	Stapeley, John (Stapley, 1795) 1794
Richards, Samuel 1795	Stetson, Amasa (Maj., 1808) 1795
Richardson, Benjamin . . 1794	Stetson, Snow 1795
Richardson, Luther . . . 1805	Stevens, Isaac 1805
Richardson, William . . . 1795	Stevenson, Thomas, Jr. . . 1805
Richardson, William Lambert Oct. 12, 1883	Stillman, Samuel, Rev., D.D. 1794
Roberts, William 1805	St. Madard, Peter, Dr. (St. Medard, 1805) 1795
Rockwood, Ebenezer . . . 1808	Stone, William 1794
Rosseau, George L. . . . 1805	Sweetser, Seth 1795
Roulstone, John 1794	Taylor, Joseph 1805
Roulstone, Michael . . . 1805	Taylor, Simeon 1805
Rowe, Hannah, Mrs. . . . 1795	Taylor, William 1795
Russell, Benjamin, Capt. (Maj. in 1800) 1794	Thacher, George M., April 26, 1852
Russell, John 1794	Thacher, Peter 1805
Russell, Joseph 1794	Thaxter, Adam W. . . . 1838
Russell, Thomas, Hon. . . 1794	Thayer, Amasa 1805
Russell, William W. . . . 1794	Thayer, Minot 1794
Rust, Joseph 1795	Thayer, Samuel M. . . . 1794
Salisbury, Samuel 1794	Thayer, Stephen, Dr. . . . 1794
Salisbury, Samuel, Jr. . . 1805	Thomas, Isaiah, 3d . . . 1795
Scollay, William Cole . . 1794	Thomas, Joshua (Dr., 1808), 1794
Seward, Benjamin 1805	Thomas, T. H. 1847
Shed, Joseph 1795	Thomas, T. K. 1805
Shepard, Harvey Newton Oct. 14, 1881	Thompson, John 1838
Shepherd, James (Shepard in 1800, Shepherd in 1808) . 1794	Thompson, Josiah 1795
Sherman, Charles J. F. April 11, 1856	Thoreau, John 1795
	Thurston, William 1805
	Thwing, Samuel 1794
	Thwing, Samuel, Jr. . . . 1805
	Tilden, David 1795
	Tileston, Lemuel 1795
	Tileston, William 1808

Trueman, John	1795	Wells, Samuel	May 9, 1890
Tuck, William (Capt. in 1808),	1805	Wells, Seth	1795
Tudor, William, Hon.	1794	Welsh, Jonas	1795
Tupper, Benjamin	1795	Wendell, Oliver, Hon.	1794
Tuttle, Samuel	1805	West, David	1794
Tuttle, Samuel C.	1805	West, John	1794
Tuttle, Turell (Turell, Tuttle, in 1795)	1794	West, Samuel, Rev., D.D.	1795
Tyler, John S.	1794	Wetherbee, J. Otis Oct. 14, 1881	
		Wetherbee, Winthrop May 13, 1892	
		Wheelock, Abel	1795
Varon, Stephen	1795	Wheelwright, John	1795
Vaughan, Charles (Vaughn, 1795)	1794	Whipple, Joseph, Dr.	1794
Veazie, Eli (Veasie in 1847),	1805	White, Charles	1838
Viles, Clinton	Oct. 12, 1883	White, Ebenezer	1795
Volentine, Nathaniel	1805	White, James	1794
		White, Joseph	1838
		White, Reuben	1805
		White, Samuel	1805
		White, W. P.	1795
		Whitman, Davis	1805
		Whitney, Henry Austin	
			April 9, 1875
Wade, Benjamin	1795	Whitney, Moses	1838
Wade, Ebenezer	1795	Whittemore, Henry Oct. 13, 1882	
Wainwright, Henry	1808	Wild, Abraham	1795
Walker, Clement A. April 11, 1856		Wild, Daniel	1794
Walker, Dudley	1795	Wild, Elisha	1805
Walker, Isaac	1805	Wilder, Joseph R.	1808
Wallack, Moses, Capt	1795	Williams, William, Capt.	1795
Walter, Lynde	1808	Willis, Charles	1805
Walter, William, Rev., D.D. 1794		Williston, John	1805
Walter, William	1808	Wilson, John	1838
Walton, Jotham	1805	Winship, Amos	1795
Warland, Owen	1805	Winslow, John, Col. (Gen. in 1805)	1795
Warland, Thomas	1794	Winthrop, Adam	1805
Warren, John, Dr.	1794	Winthrop, Andrew	1805
Warren, John W., Jr. June 8, 1843		Winthrop, Thomas L.	1805
Waters, Josiah	1794	Woart, John	1795
Webb, Nathan	1795	Woart, William	1794
Webster, Redford	1795	Woods, William	1794
Welch, Francis C.	Oct. 12, 1883	Wright, Francis	1805
Welles, Alfred	1805		
Welles, Arnold	1794		
Welles, Arnold, Jr.	1795		
Welles, Thomas	1795		
Wellington, Alfred A. Oct. 9, 1846			
Wellington, Fred A.	Oct. 9, 1863		
Wells, Benjamin T.	1808		
Wells, Ebenezer	1795	Young, Alexander	1794

BY-LAWS
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

PREAMBLE.

THE objects of this Society shall be to assist those who may Objects of the Society. unfortunately suffer by fire; to reward the industry and ingenuity of those who make valuable discoveries for preventing devastations by fire, or who invent useful machines for extinguishing the same, or make extraordinary exertion in time of such calamity; and also, after paying such expenses as the Government or Corporation may determine, to appropriate to benevolent institutions and charitable purposes such part of the income accruing from the funds as the Government or Corporation may lawfully devote to those objects.

ARTICLE I.

The funds of this Society shall never be expended except as Funds, how invested. provided in the Preamble to these By-Laws. They shall be invested only in such manner as savings banks, or institutions for savings, incorporated under the authority of this State, are now, or may hereafter be, authorized to invest their deposits. No appropriation or expenditure shall be made which will reduce the funds below the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars.

ARTICLE II.

The Corporation shall consist of not more than fifty members, Membership. and no person shall be admitted a member unless elected by the Society after recommendation by the Government.

Any member of the Society may propose a candidate for mem- Admission. bership by written notice signed by him and sent to the Secretary,

who shall, not less than seven nor more than fourteen days prior to the next succeeding regular meeting of the Society, call a meeting of the Government for action on the name so proposed, and the name of every candidate who shall be recommended for membership by the Government shall be considered by the Society at its next regular meeting. The notice of every meeting of the government and of the Society at which a candidate for membership is to be considered shall contain the name of such candidate and the name of the member proposing him.

The vote upon a candidate, both in the Government and in the Society, shall be taken by ballot, and in either case four dissenting votes shall defeat an election. If a person so elected shall, for a period of fifteen days after notice of his election has been given him by the Secretary, fail to signify his acceptance of membership and to pay the sum of five dollars to the Treasurer, he shall be deemed to have declined membership.

Admission
fee.

ARTICLE III.

Meetings.

There shall be two meetings of the Corporation in each year, both of which shall be held in the city of Boston; viz., the Annual Meeting on the second Friday in November, the other on the second Friday in May, notice of which and of all other meetings of the Corporation shall be given by the Secretary by mail, at least five days previous to such meetings. Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary by direction of the Government or upon the written request of ten members. Not less than ten members shall constitute a quorum.

Meetings,
how
called.

Quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers.

The Government shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and eight Trustees, who shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting, and whose respective terms of office shall begin on the day succeeding the dissolution of the Annual Meeting, and continue until their respective successors are chosen and qualified. Vacancies occurring from any cause shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Corporation, or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

How
chosen.

ARTICLE V.

Meetings of the Government shall be called by direction of the President, or upon the written request of three of its members, by notice signed by the Secretary, or in his absence by the President or Treasurer, which shall be sent to each member at least three days prior to the time of meeting.

Government
Meetings,
how called.

ARTICLE VI.

No person shall be eligible to the office of President or Vice President for more than two consecutive years.

President,
Vice
President,
terms of
service.

ARTICLE VII.

Five members of the Government, assembled on due notice, shall be vested with full powers to act on all business pertaining to the corporation, *except as provided in Article XI.*

Powers of
the Govern-
ment.

ARTICLE VIII.

There shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting three members of the Government, who shall be a Committee of Finance. It shall be their duty to cause the funds to be safely invested; and they may, from time to time, make such a change in the investments (agreeably to Article I.) as they may deem for the interest of the Corporation. They shall cause all moneys to be deposited in such bank as they may designate, and no stock or bonds shall be transferred, or mortgage cancelled or assigned, without the written approval of two of their number; and the discharge or assignment of any mortgage executed in the name of the Corporation by the Treasurer, with such approval, shall be valid and binding upon the Corporation.

Finance
Commit-
tee.

Their
duty.

Securities,
how trans-
ferred.

ARTICLE IX.

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds and securities of the Corporation, and shall manage the same as the Finance Committee shall direct. He shall deposit all moneys on hand in such bank as they may determine; and all checks drawn against such

Treasurer.

money shall be countersigned by one of their number. He shall not make transfers of stocks, or change any securities, except as provided in Article VIII. He shall not pay any bills, except those incurred by the Secretary in calling meetings as provided in Articles III. and V., or disburse any money, unless by vote of the Corporation or of the Government, or without the written approval of a majority of any committee authorized to make such expenditure or payment. He shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures, and the same, together with all securities and other papers of value, shall be kept in a fire-proof safe; and at the Annual Meeting in November he shall make a detailed report of the same, giving a statement of the financial condition of the Corporation at the time. He shall give bonds satisfactory to the Government, in such sum as they shall require, for the faithful performance of his duty, and shall receive the sum of two hundred dollars annually as compensation for his services.

Payment,
how made.

Treasurer's
report.

Compensation.

ARTICLE X.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify and attend all meetings of the Corporation and of the Government, record their doings, and generally to perform the duties usually required of such an officer; he shall, upon the death of a member of the Society, compile a short sketch of the life of such member and deposit the same with the records; he shall cause the records to be kept in a fire-proof safe, and he shall receive the sum of fifty dollars annually as a compensation for his services.

Secretary,
his duty.

Compensation.

ARTICLE XI.

At the Annual Meeting there shall be elected, by ballot, three members of the Society, to constitute a Committee on Donations, who shall have authority to expend, from the income of the funds of the Society, sums not exceeding fifty dollars in any individual case for the relief of any worthy person who is a sufferer by reason of any calamity from fire in this city; said sums to be paid by the Treasurer upon the requisition of a majority of said committee. Said committee shall also have authority, subject to the approval of the Government, to donate to any benevolent or

Committee on Donations,
powers
and duties.

charitable societies in this city sums not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars in each case. No sum exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars shall be appropriated for any object without a vote of the Corporation first had and obtained thereon.

ARTICLE XII.

At all meetings of the Corporation or of the Government, in the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer or one of the Trustees shall preside.

Presiding
officer.

ARTICLE XIII.

These By-Laws shall not be amended, altered, or repealed unless by a vote of three fourths of those present at a meeting ordered by vote of the Corporation, and called by a written notice, signed by the Secretary, and directed to each member, stating the object of the meeting; such notice to be sent at least five days before the time of meeting.

By-Laws,
how
amended.
Notice to
be given.

OFFICERS

ELECTED NOVEMBER 11, 1892.

President.

SAMUEL FOSTER McCLEARY.

Vice President.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS WELLINGTON.

Treasurer.

CHARLES BRADLEY CUMINGS.

Secretary.

HENRY HARRISON SPRAGUE.

Trustees.

LEMUEL CUSHING KIMBALL.

HENRY BRIGHAM RICE.

DAVID PULSIFER KIMBALL.

J. OTIS WETHERBEE.

FREDERIC WALKER LINCOLN.

JAMES GOLDTHWAIT FREEMAN.

FRANK WILLIAM ANDREWS.

HARVEY NEWTON SHEPARD.

Finance Committee.

DAVID PULSIFER KIMBALL.

HENRY BRIGHAM RICE.

FRANK WILLIAM ANDREWS.

Committee on Donations.

THOMAS SHERWIN.
THOMAS RESTIEAUX.
CLINTON VILES.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

MAY, 1893.

Andrews, Frank W.	October	12, 1855
Brown, Francis H.	November	11, 1892
Cary, Alexander C.	October	20, 1871
Coppins, George T.	November	11, 1892
Crocker, George G.	May	9, 1873
Crocker, George U.	May	13, 1892
Crocker, Uriel H.	May	9, 1886
Cumings, Charles B.	October	20, 1871
Cummings, Charles A.	October	20, 1871
Davis, William F.	October	20, 1871
Davis, William Holden	November	8, 1889
Field, George G.	October	13, 1882
Forster, Edward J.	May	13, 1892
Freeman, Horace V.	May	8, 1891
Freeman, James G.	April	11, 1884
Gould, Benjamin A.	May	11, 1888
Green, Charles M.	May	13, 1892
Hills, Edwin A.	October	12, 1883
Hovey, Solomon	October	22, 1845
Kimball, David P.	October	8, 1858
Kimball, L. Cushing	October	20, 1871
Kimball, Moses	October	12, 1849
Lincoln, Frederic W.	October	11, 1850
Lincoln, Frederic W., Jr.	October	10, 1884
Lincoln, Louis R.	November	11, 1892
McCleary, Samuel F.	October	20, 1871
Minot, William, Jr.	November	12, 1886

Niles, George E.	October	12, 1883
Resticaux, Thomas	October	20, 1871
Revere, Joseph W.	May	11, 1888
Rice, Henry B.	October	20, 1871
Rice, L. Frederick	April	9, 1875
Richardson, William L.	October	12, 1883
Shepard, Harvey N.	October	14, 1881
Sherman, Thomas F.	October	10, 1884
Sherwin, Thomas	October	14, 1881
Sprague, Henry H.	October	14, 1881
Viles, Clinton	October	12, 1883
Welch, Francis C.	October	12, 1883
Wellington, Frederick A.	October	9, 1863
Wells, Samuel	May	9, 1890
Wetherbee, J. Otis	October	14, 1881
Wetherbee, Winthrop	May	13, 1892
Whittemore, Henry	October	13, 1882

SKETCHES

OF

MEMBERS WHO HAVE DECEASED SINCE 1885.

THE following biographical notices were prepared in accordance with an amendment to the By-Laws passed October 9, 1885, requiring the Secretary, upon the death of a member, to compile and deposit with the records a short sketch of his life.

JOHN REVERE, born in Boston in 1822, was a son of Joseph Warren Revere, and a grandson of Paul Revere of Revolutionary fame and one of the founders of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society. He was fitted for college in the Boston Latin School, and was graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1841. After leaving college he entered upon a business career, and subsequently became connected with the Revere Copper Company, a corporation which had succeeded to the business carried on by his father and grandfather under the name of Paul Revere and Son.

Mr. Revere was influential and respected in the business community, but, being without ambition for public life, held no important official position. He was a man of quiet beneficence, and a constant contributor to deserving charities. He was a respected member of the King's Chapel congregation, and for many years was a vestryman of that church.

In later years, although continuing his town residence in Boston, Mr. Revere spent his summers in Canton, where he died, July 26, 1886, after a long illness from pulmonary consumption.

He was married in 1848 to Susan T. Torrey, a daughter of the late John G. Torrey, who, with several children, survives him. His son, Joseph Warren Revere, is a member of this Society.

URIEL CROCKER was born in Marblehead, September 13, 1796. His death occurred after a short illness, July 19, 1887, in Cohasset, where he was spending the summer, his permanent residence being in Boston.

Mr. Crocker was a descendant of William Crocker, who came from England about the year 1634, and afterwards settled in Barnstable. He was educated in the Grammar School and at the Academy in Marblehead, from which he came out with a certificate of the "best scholarship." He chose the sea for his profession, but his choice was denied by the insistence of his grandfather, Captain Richard James of Revolutionary service, and diverted to the more peaceful occupation of printer. On September 14, 1811, he came to Boston and became an apprentice in the printing office of Samuel T. Armstrong, which was located in the building then known as No. 50 Cornhill, but on the site of what is now Nos. 173 and 175 Washington Street. Osmyn Brewster began an apprenticeship in the same office in the following November. On the 1st of November, 1818, Mr. Crocker and Mr. Brewster were admitted to partnership in the business, the bookstore being carried on in the name of Mr. Armstrong, and the printing office in the name of Crocker and Brewster. On April 1, 1825, Mr. Armstrong retired from the firm, and thereafter both departments were conducted by Crocker and Brewster, Mr. Crocker taking charge more especially of the publishing, and Mr. Brewster of the selling department. The firm continued successfully the business of book publishing and selling until 1876, a period of more than fifty years. For five years they also maintained a branch department in New York, which became the foundation of the house of D. Appleton & Co. The business was carried on in the old building on Washington Street until 1864, when they were obliged to remove to the adjoining estate, which they occupied until the termination of active business in 1876. The firm, however, was dissolved only by his death.

Mr. Crocker's energy was not confined to his business, but he took a leading part in the large enterprises which, begun two or three scores of years ago, have largely contributed to the present prosperity of the city of Boston. He was an original subscriber to the Old Colony Railroad Company, and became one of its first Board of Directors in 1844, and was a member of the Board until 1850, and again from 1863 until his death. He had likewise been a Director of the Northern Railroad for many years. He was for a long time a Director of the Concord Railroad, was a Vice President and President of the Southern Pacific Railroad, later known as the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, and was at one time a Director of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. He was a Director of the United States Hotel Company from 1848, and President from 1863 until his decease. He was one of the original stockholders in the Revere House Association, and had been President of the corporation since its organization in 1855. He took an active interest in the development of the South Cove lands, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the South Cove Corporation from 1840 until his death, and served the corporation as President from 1849. He likewise was a Director and President of the South Bay Improvement Company.

Mr. Crocker would not accept any political office, but he was active in the leading charitable and philanthropic associations. Becoming a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association in 1824, he served as a Trustee from 1830 to 1833, and as Treasurer from 1833 to 1841, doing efficient service in behalf of the Association during the first three triennial exhibitions. He became a subscriber to the Bunker Hill Monument Association in 1824, was a Director from 1833, and from 1869 until his death also its senior Vice President. He was the oldest member of the Massachusetts Charitable Society, having joined it in 1824. He was its President in 1858, and its Treasurer from 1860 until 1881. He was one of the original incorporators of the Franklin Savings Bank in 1861, and for many years acted as a Trustee. For many years he was one of the Trustees of the Boston Dispen-

sary, and also a member of the Board of Overseers of the House of Correction.

He was likewise a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Society, and of the Bostonian Society.

His membership of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society began October 11, 1850. He became a Trustee in 1861, which position he held until 1874. In 1874-76 he served as Vice President, and in 1876-78 he was President of the Society. He was chosen to represent the Society in the Board of Trustees of the Boston Lying-in Hospital in 1876, and was continued in that position until 1881.

Early in life he became a member "in regular standing" of the Old South Church. In his old age he strenuously opposed the removal of the society from its historic "Meeting-House" at the corner of Milk and Washington Streets, and he was active in saving the famous edifice from destruction.

Mr. Crocker was faithful and untiring in the discharge of all his offices and trusts; and few men have been more identified with the business and charitable institutions of Boston of the last half-century.

Mr. Crocker was married in 1829 to Sarah Kidder Haskell, who died in 1856. His three children survive him,—his sons, Uriel H. and George G., being members of this Society.

THOMAS RESTIEAUX was, on his father's side, of French parentage, and was born at the North End of Boston, January 24, 1813. He was educated in the public schools, completing with honors the course of work of the Grammar and English High Schools. After five years of preparation and study of pharmacy under the instruction of Dr. Charles French, he began, in 1835, the business of an apothecary at the corner of Hanover and Cross Streets, where he remained until April, 1855. He then removed to the store No. 29 Tremont Street, and continued the business there—in the later years associated with his son—until the time of his death, which occurred in Boston, August 19, 1887.

Mr. Restieaux not only attained a leading position in his business profession, but during all his life took an active part in public matters. He early identified himself with various charitable institutions, and was chosen to important positions of trust.

Mr. Restieaux became a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, April 12, 1850. He served as a Trustee from 1853 to 1860, as Treasurer from 1860 to 1865, again as Trustee from 1865 to 1878, as Vice President from 1878 to 1880, as President from 1880 to 1882, and after 1882 as Trustee. He became, by the election of this Society, one of the Trustees of the Boston Lying-in Hospital in 1876, and held that position until his death.

He was for many years a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Society, of which for nineteen years he was Secretary. He was in 1853 a Representative in the General Court, and for several years served on the Primary School Committee of Boston.

Mr. Restieaux became at an early period a Freemason, and continued during his life a zealous and devoted member of the Masonic fraternity. He received his first degrees in the Lodge of St. Andrews, of which he was at one time the Master. He was likewise a member of St. Andrews Royal Arch Chapter, and a charter member of the De Molay Commandery.

He was married in April, 1836, to Eliza Ann Green, and she survives him, with two daughters, and a son, Thomas Restieaux, Jr., a member of the Society.

Mr. Restieaux was a man of strict integrity, of genial disposition, and of large public spirit.

SAMUEL PARKMAN OLIVER was the son of David Oliver, a sea captain, and Susan (Parkman) Oliver. He was born on Hanover Street, in the North End of Boston, November 25, 1811. He attended the Hancock School, and at the completion of the course, received a Franklin Medal. Upon leaving school he was employed as teller in the Market Bank, and there remained about twenty years. He relinquished this employment for a similar position in the Provident Institution

for Savings, where he performed faithful service from 1854 to 1875. This position he was obliged to resign in 1875 on account of ill health, from which, however, he recovered in a few months. In 1876, 1877, and 1878 he served as Assistant Assessor of the city of Boston. Subsequent to 1878 he was not engaged in any regular business, but continued to reside in Boston until his decease, which occurred, after a lingering illness, September 14, 1888.

Mr. Oliver became a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, April 10, 1857, was one of the Committee on Machines from 1866 to 1870, became a Trustee in 1870, and served in that capacity until 1882. He was Vice President of the Society from 1882 to 1884, and President from 1884 to 1886.

In early years he was active in the municipal affairs of the city of Boston. He represented the North End, then old Ward One, in the Common Council in 1845, 1846, and 1847; was a member of the Primary School Committee for fifteen years, from 1840 to 1855; and, on the organization of the Directors of Public Institutions, became a member of the Board, serving on it for the years 1857, 1858, and 1859, the first year acting also as clerk.

Mr. Oliver was an ardent Freemason, and his interest and zeal were, especially in his later years, largely devoted to that fraternity. He became a member of the Lodge of St. Andrews in 1849, was Master of that Lodge in 1852, was also a member of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the time of his decease, and held various other important positions in the Masonic body.

He was twice married, first in 1836, to Sarah Wilson, by whom he had one daughter, and in 1855 to Eliza R. Harrod, who, with two daughters, survives him.

Mr. Oliver was a good citizen, endowed with quiet habits and reserved manners, possessed of rather decided opinions, and a man of scrupulous integrity and truthfulness.

HENRY AUSTIN WHITNEY died, after a brief illness, at his residence, No. 261 Marlborough Street, in Boston, February 21,

1889. He was born in Boston, October 6, 1826. His early education was received in the private schools of this city, among them Chauncy Hall School, where he was fitted for college. He was graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1846, and was its Class Secretary.

Upon leaving college he was engaged for about two years in the dry goods house of Blanchard, Converse, & Co., and afterwards in the shoe and leather business with his father, the late Joseph Whitney. In 1863 he became a Director of the Norfolk and Baltimore Steamship Company, and was afterward elected Vice President, which position he held at his decease. Previous to 1871 he was a Director in the Detroit, Lansing, and Northern Railroad Company, of Michigan. In 1871 he became a Director of the Boston and Providence Railroad Company, and in 1875, upon the death of the late Governor Clifford, he was elected President of the company, and continued to hold that office until his decease.

He was a Director of the Shoe and Leather Bank for eight or ten years previous to 1874, and in that year resigned to accept the position of Director in the Suffolk National Bank, in which he served as President during the first two years.

Mr. Whitney became a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, April 9, 1875, and was a Trustee from 1879 until his decease. He was, in November, 1887, elected a Director, on the part of the Society, of the Boston Lying-in Hospital.

He was a prominent and active member of the Massachusetts Humane Society, serving as Recording Secretary for two years. He was Secretary for several years of the Boston Dispensary, and Trustee of the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Society. He was devoted to the interests of the Masonic fraternity, and was an active member of the Lodge of St. Andrews.

Mr. Whitney married, in 1852, Fanny Lawrence, a daughter of William Lawrence, of Boston, who died in 1883. He left three sons and two daughters.

In 1866 he removed from Boston to Milton, and from that time was a permanent resident of Milton, spending the winters, with few exceptions, in Boston. He was closely identified with the interests of that town, particularly with the Public Library, to which he was a generous contributor.

Mr. Whitney possessed wide general information and conversational powers, was social and genial in his nature, and commanded the respect of all who knew him.

OSMYN BREWSTER died at his residence in Hancock Street, Boston, July 15, 1889, being nearly ninety-two years of age. He was born in Worthington, Massachusetts, August 2, 1797, his father being a physician of that town, and a descendant of Elder Brewster of the Pilgrims. Mr. Brewster came to Boston in 1811, and became an apprentice in the printing office of Samuel T. Armstrong. In 1818 he and Uriel Crocker, who was by two months his senior as an apprentice in the office, became partners in the business of publishers and booksellers, and the partnership of Crocker and Brewster then formed was dissolved only by the death of Mr. Crocker in 1887, although they gave up active business in 1876.

Mr. Brewster took an active part in public affairs. For five years — 1848, 1849, 1850, 1852, and 1856 — he was a Representative in the General Court, and in 1853 he was a member of the State Senate. He was also a member of the Convention for revising the Constitution. For the years 1856, 1857, and 1858 he was a member of the Board of Aldermen of Boston, and for several years was one of the Board of Directors for Public Institutions of the city.

He was one of the founders of the Franklin Savings Bank in 1861, and became its first President, — a position which he held until 1887, when he was obliged by his advanced age to resign the more active duties of the presidency. As senior Vice President, however, he continued his daily connection with the bank until his death. He became in 1859 a member of the first Board of Directors of the Revere Bank, and retained the position of Director of the Revere and National Revere Bank until his decease, a period of over thirty years.

When Mr. Crocker retired from his nine years' service as Treasurer of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association, in 1842, Mr. Brewster became his successor, and held the treasurership until 1880, about thirty-eight years. At the end of fourteen years' service, in 1856, he was presented with a valuable silver service by the society, in recognition of his valuable labors in its behalf. Mr. Brewster was for many years one of the Directors of the United States Hotel Company, and of the South Cove Corporation, and held other important business and charitable positions.

He received the degree of Master of Arts from Dartmouth College in 1867.

He became a member of this Society in 1855, and was elected a Trustee in 1876. He served as Trustee until 1884, when he was elected Vice President, which position he held for two years.

Mr. Brewster had nine children, of whom seven survived him.

Mr. Brewster was a man of unimpeachable integrity, earnest moral principle, and of untiring devotion to his duties, and his life was of great usefulness to the community.

PAUL ADAMS died at his residence in Charles Street, in Boston, on January 23, 1891, in his ninety-fourth year. He was a member of this Society for nearly forty years, a member of the Board of Trustees from 1864 to 1876, Vice President from 1876 to 1878, and President from 1878 to 1880.

Mr. Adams was born in Alton, N. H., June 19, 1797, but removed to Boston at the age of nineteen years, and entered the store of A. & A. Lawrence & Co. He was, however, during the most of his active business life engaged in the wood and coal and lumber trade in this city.

Upon the establishment of the Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, in 1854, he became its President, which position he resigned in 1874; but he continued with the bank as Vice President and Trustee until his decease. He was likewise, in 1871, one of the founders of the National Bank of the Commonwealth, and was a Director of the bank until 1882. He

was also a Director of the North American Insurance Company from 1859 to 1878.

His large activity was not, however, confined to business enterprises, but he took a prominent part in public affairs. He served as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor of Boston from 1847 to 1849, was a member of the Common Council in 1852 and 1853, and in 1854 represented the city in the House of Representatives of the State. He was likewise for many years a Trustee of the Cemetery at Mount Auburn, and Director of the Howard Benevolent Society.

He left a widow, and she and three daughters survive him.

Mr. Adams was possessed of a quiet and unassuming manner and of a genial and benevolent disposition; by his energy, enterprise, and intelligence he contributed largely in various ways to the material prosperity of the city; and by his strict integrity and his honorable character he helped to maintain the high standard of the business men of Boston of the old school.

JOHN WELLS CUMINGS died in Boston, October 13, 1891. Mr. Cumings, who was the son of Bradley N. Cumings, a former member of the Society, was born at the North End, March 4, 1836, and during his whole life was a resident of Boston. He was educated at the Brimmer School, and in 1852, at the age of sixteen years, began his business life as a boy in the office of Elisha Atkins & Co., who were extensively engaged in the West India trade. Here he remained actively engaged until his death, being during the last twenty-five years a partner in the firm.

While Mr. Cumings always gave to his business duties a zealous and faithful devotion which largely contributed to the success and confidence which the firm maintained, he was alike faithful in the broader relations of citizen, neighbor, and friend. Though never holding an elective public office, he took a lively interest in public affairs, and performed active political service on the side of the party whose principles he espoused. He was for many years an efficient member of the South Congregational Society, a Director of the Mercantile

Library Association in its working days, an officer in the Boston Art Club, Secretary of "A Republican Institution," and a Director of the Penny Savings Bank and also of the China Mutual Insurance Company.

He became a member of this Society in 1875, was a Trustee from 1884 until 1890, when he was elected its Vice President. He not only gave the Society much faithful service, but took a keen interest in preserving the associations which are gathered about its past.

He married Abba M. Clark, of Boston, who survives him, and he leaves also a son, J. Bradley Cumings, and two married daughters.

Mr. Cumings endeared himself to the community in which he lived, by his fidelity to trusts, his lofty and unselfish public spirit, his quick and helpful sympathies, and the kindly and graceful integrity of his character.

JOSEPH FAULKNER HOVEY died at his home in Belmont, January 4, 1892, after a long illness.

Mr. Hovey was born in Charlestown in 1822, and at an early age entered upon the insurance business, in which he successfully continued during his life. The firm of Hovey and Fenno, which was established in 1863, continued until his decease. He was long the Secretary of the State Mutual Insurance Company, and subsequently became its President.

Mr. Hovey was elected Treasurer of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society in 1854, serving one year; and he was elected a Trustee of the Society in 1870, and served in that position until 1880, when he was made Vice President. He was the President of the Society from 1882 to 1884.

Mr. Hovey was always held in high esteem and honor by his business associates, and his genial ways and warm-hearted sympathy gained him a wide circle of friends.

WASHINGTON PARKER GREGG. The Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society lost, in the decease of Mr. Gregg, a member of more than sixty years' service. He was born in Boston on January 17, 1803, and died in Milton, on March 7, 1892, in

his ninetieth year. Mr. Gregg's birthplace was on Hanover Street, on the site of the present American House. He came from ancestors who took a leading part in Colonial affairs. His grandfather commanded a troop at the battle of Bunker Hill, and a great-uncle took a prominent part in the battle of Bennington, and he seemed by his own personality to establish a connecting link with the earlier days.

Mr. Gregg was educated for the bar, and for several years engaged in office practice on State Street. He was Assistant Clerk of the State Senate from 1827 to 1851. In the years 1830 and 1831 he was a member of the Common Council of Boston, and in 1843 he was made Clerk of that body. He remained in the position of Clerk continuously from 1843 until 1885, when he voluntarily retired from office on account of his advancing years.

Mr. Gregg's interest, industry, and fidelity in public service has seldom if ever been surpassed. In the twenty-five years in which he was Assistant Clerk of the Senate he was never absent from a session of that body; and during the forty-two years of his clerkship of the Common Council he was never absent from a regular meeting, and was present at every special meeting except one, which was called during his absence on his regular vacation, and to which he was not summoned.

Mr. Gregg was one of the Committee on Machines of this Society from 1832 to 1839, and a Trustee from 1839 to 1852, when he became Recording Secretary, serving in that office until 1880. In 1880 he was again elected a Trustee, which position he held until his decease. He took a deep interest in all the Society's doings; and until the last sent an excuse for every absence from a meeting of the Society or of the Government.

HENRY GRAFTON CLARK, M. D., was a grandson of Rev. Jonas Clark of Lexington, of Revolutionary fame, who married a cousin of John Hancock. He was born in Kennebunkport, in Maine, on May 14, 1814, and died on September 23, 1892, in Hyde Park, although a resident of Boston. He was

graduated from the Bowdoin Medical College in 1834, and in that year came to Boston, and for a period of fifty-eight years practised his profession in this city, in which he reached a high eminence, especially in the department of surgery.

Doctor Clark became the Superintendent of the Quarantine Hospital on Deer Island at the time of the ship fever epidemic in 1847, and had the supervision of the cholera hospital on Fort Hill during the epidemic of that disease which visited Boston in 1848 and 1849. Upon the establishment of the position of City Physician, in 1849, he was chosen to that office, which he filled until 1861; and during the subsequent eight years he continued in the service of the city as Consulting Physician. He was elected a surgeon of the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1851, and there served a period of twenty-five years. In 1862 and 1863 he was, by appointment of Surgeon General Hammond, made Inspector in Chief of Army Hospitals, and gave valuable assistance to the United States Sanitary Commission. He also served at different periods as surgeon of several military organizations, and was active in the leading medical societies.

It was largely owing to the urgent representations of Doctor Clark and his associates in charge of the temporary cholera hospital, that measures were taken for the establishment of the Boston City Hospital, and the plans adopted for its construction were to a considerable extent in accordance with suggestions made by him.

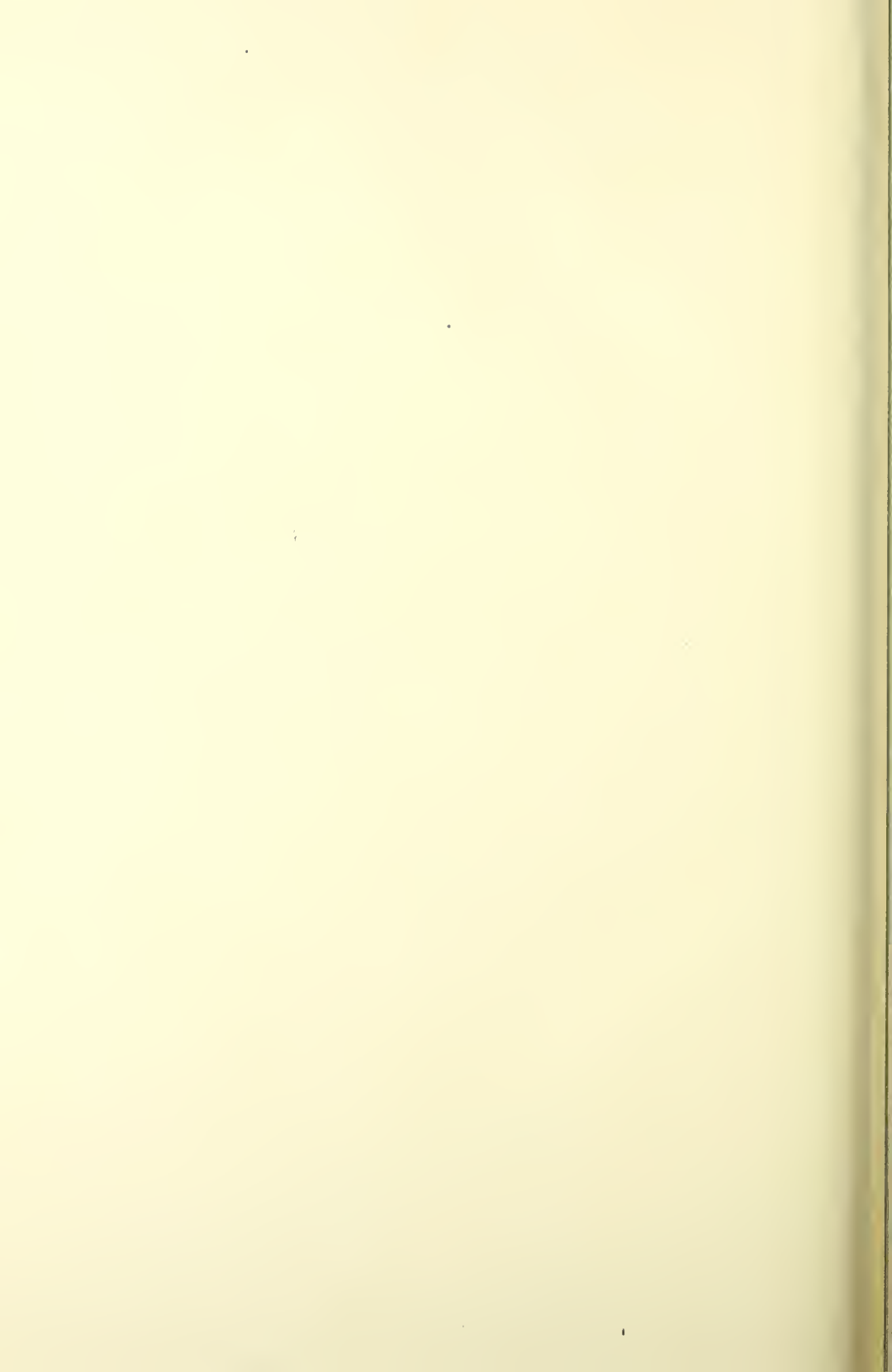
Doctor Clark did not, however, confine his activity to his profession, but gave much time to various public positions. He served the city for thirty-two consecutive years, beginning with 1837, on the Primary and Grammar School Committees, was for a time a Trustee of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble Minded, and was in 1848 and 1849 a Representative in the General Court. He was the author of many valuable papers on medical and sanitary subjects, and was especially an authority in cholera, ship-fever, ventilation, and medical jurisprudence. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of St. Andrews, and always took a zealous interest in that body.

Doctor Clark was a man of large and vigorous intellect, and in past years was one of the most energetic, industrious, and original members of his profession, and he maintained a marked degree of activity even until his death. With his other characteristics were combined musical and poetical tastes, in which he found time to indulge in the midst of his busy professional and public life, and which were sources of great pleasure to himself and his associates.

He left a son, Henry Paston Clark, and two daughters.

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
AT THE
Algonquin Club, Boston
11 NOVEMBER 1892





Menu

CAVIARE

OYSTERS

CLEAR GREEN TURTLE

CROMESQUI À L'ALGONQUIN

CHICKEN HAUBUT AU GRATIN

Cucumber Salad.

ROAST SADDLE of SOUTH-DOWN MUTTON

Green Peas

Potato Croquettes.

CRÊME DE VOLAILLE À LA NÉAMOURE

PÂTÉ DE TERRAPIN À LA MARYLAND

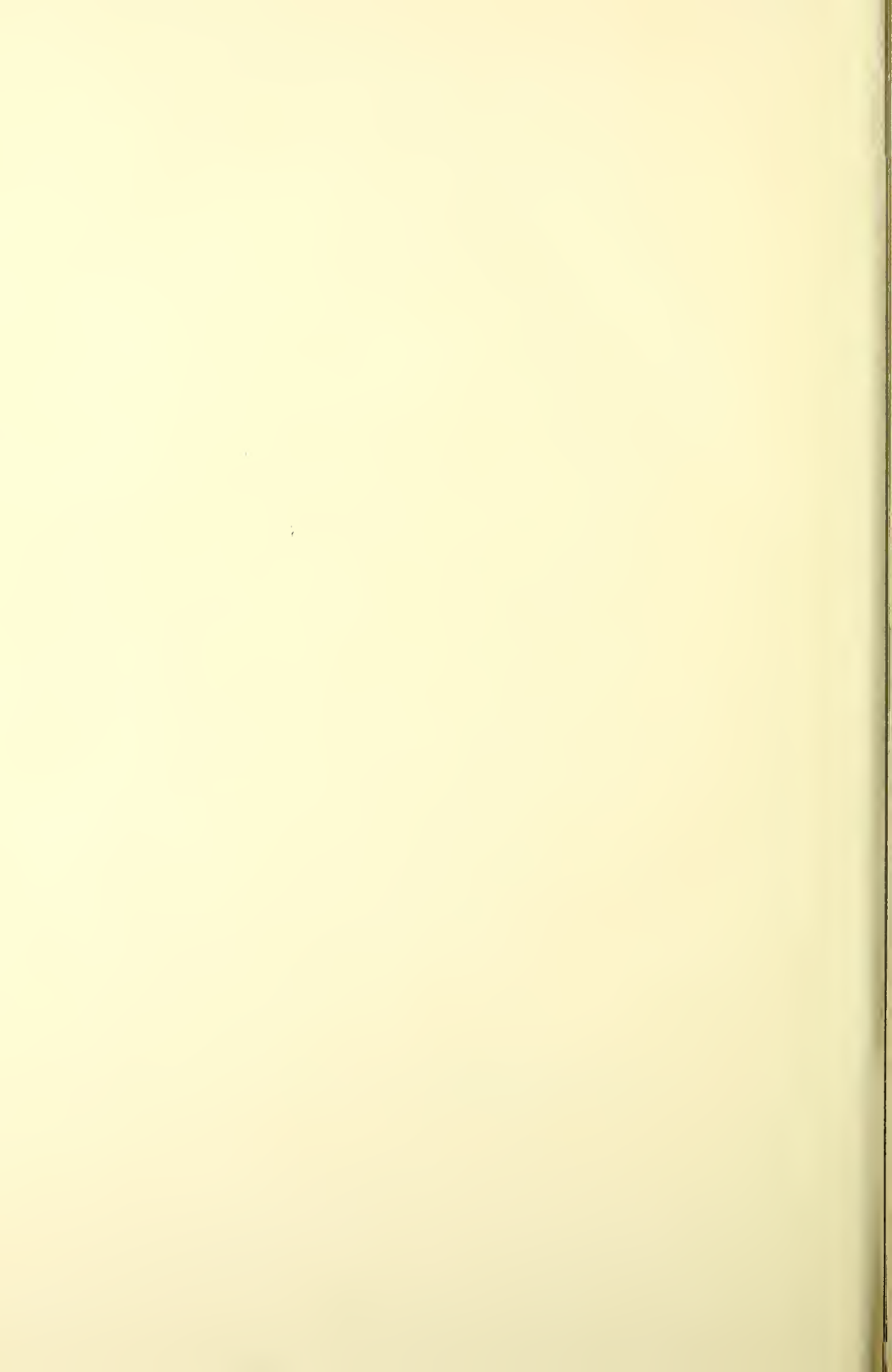
ROMAN PUNCH

ROAST BLACK DUCK

Celery Salad

CHEESE • ICES • FRUIT





APPENDIX.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY.

THE establishment of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY was commemorated at the annual meeting, which was held on November 11, 1892, at the Algonquin Club, on Commonwealth Avenue.

After transacting the business of the meeting, the members assembled in the dining-hall, and the following were present: — Messrs. Brown, Coppins, G. G. Crocker, G. U. Crocker, U. H. Crocker, C. B. Cumings, C. A. Cummings, W. F. Davis, W. H. Davis, Field, Forster, H. V. Freeman, J. G. Freeman, Gould, Green, L. C. Kimball, F. W. Lincoln, McCleary, Niles, Restieaux, H. B. Rice, L. F. Rice, Richardson, Shepard, Sherwin, Sprague, Welch, Wellington, Wells, J. O. Wetherbee, and W. Wetherbee.

The dining-hall was decorated with portraits of old members, and with fire buckets, bags, staffs, and other relics and tokens of the past of the Society.

GEORGE G. CROCKER presided. A bill of fare was served, which appears upon the accompanying pages.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. Crocker, the President, made an introductory address, pertinent to the occasion, from which the following extracts are taken: —

“On the twentieth of November, 1792, a few prominent citizens of the town of Boston, moved, as it is said, ‘by the frequent examples of suffering and destitution resulting from the ravages of fire, and

wishing to lessen the same,' associated themselves together for the purpose of establishing a fund, the income of which was to be applied to 'this humane undertaking.' This association culminated on June 25, 1794, in the incorporation of our Society. Its purpose was declared to be to provide means to relieve such of the inhabitants as may suffer by fire, and to stimulate genius to useful discoveries tending to secure lives and property from destruction by fire.

"The scope of the Society was, therefore, purely charitable. It was entirely different from the so-called fire societies, the first of which was formed on the thirtieth of September, 1718, and the purpose of which was declared to be 'for mutual aid in case it should please Almighty God to permit the breaking out of fire in Boston where we live.' When our corporation was formed, there were several of these mutual fire societies in active vitality.

"It appears that these fire societies were in the habit of meeting at least once a year and having a little entertainment. The bill for one of these entertainments, held at the Bunch of Grapes, on the eighteenth of July, 1755, shows charges for food amounting to three pounds, and charges for drink amounting to twelve pounds eighteen shillings.

"The organized services of the members of these societies at fires were essential for the preservation of property as well from theft as from fire. Each member was required to know the watchword, and to keep two buckets, two bags, a bed-key, and a screw-driver at all times handy and in condition for use. The bags, the bed-key, and the screw-driver were to facilitate the removal of the beds and other furniture, the clothing and other valuables, and the buckets were used to throw water directly on the fire or to supply the engines. Nothing could be done at a fire without buckets. Hose was not used until after Boston became a city.

"The first engine, called in those times an 'ingin,' was imported from England, and reached Boston in 1678. Its arrival was hailed with great joy, as at that time the crime of arson seems to have been rampant. It was not until fifty-three years later that they got an engine in the city of New York. The value of the work of the engines of the last century may be estimated from an extract from the 'News Letter' in 1733: 'There is newly erected in the Town of Boston, by Messieurs John and Thomas Hill, a Water Engine at there Still-house, by the advise and direction of Mr. Rowland Houghton, drawn by a horse, which delivers a large quantity of water twelve feet above the ground. This being the first of the sort in these parts, we thought taking notice

of it might be of publick service, inasmuch as a great deal of labor is saved thereby.' It appears from subsequent accounts that this tub did not prove a success.

"The engine companies were distinct from the fire societies. The volunteer engine companies turned out for every fire within reach, and among them there was an intense spirit of emulation which sometimes grew into what may be called forceful acerbity. This spirit of emulation was greatly stimulated by the desire to win the premium of five pounds, which was given to that engine company which succeeded in first throwing water on a building on fire. This premium was first given in 1739, and the practice continued until the paid fire department was established.

"For a supply of water in case of fire in those days, they had to rely on the nearest pumps or wells.

"A century ago, a fire, even though it consumed only a single building, brought terrors which we at the present time can hardly realize. Fire insurance was established in England, but had not gained a foothold in this country. The amount of accumulated wealth was small. When a man lost his house, it was generally a loss of all he had, and it meant actual privation and suffering for himself and his family. There was crying need for the exercise of charity, but the ability of the people to give in charity was extremely limited. The country had established its independence, but it was overwhelmed with debt. The new-born government had barely strength enough to draw the breath of life. The people were suffering from heavy taxation and a depreciated currency. The exhaustive war with England had terminated only nine years before the first meeting of the founders of our Society. Commendable indeed was their spirit when they met under such circumstances to combine with the benevolent intent of helping their unfortunate fellow men. The stress of the times called forth all that was great in mind and in heart,—in word and in act. George Washington—probably the only man in the country who had ability, wisdom, discretion, and courage adequate for piloting the ship of state in safety through the dangers which beset it on all sides—was at the helm, serving his first term as President. John Adams was Vice President. John Hancock was Governor and Samuel Adams Lieutenant-Governor of our State.

"As Charity was our corner stone, so must it be our inspiration in the future,—Charity which is Love,—which is a key to the gate of

heaven,—Charity which, like mercy, droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath: it is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

The newly elected President, Samuel F. McCleary, was then introduced, and he read an interesting paper upon “Boston in 1792,” which, by vote of the Society, is printed with the proceedings of this meeting on the subsequent pages.

Mr. Crocker called upon Frederic W. Lincoln to respond “To the Past of our Society,—to every act of beneficence, to every instance of self-sacrifice, to every inspiration of love for humanity connected with its history.” Mr. Lincoln feelingly alluded to the former members, and the work which they accomplished.

Other addresses were made by Mr. Cumings, the Treasurer, and by the Secretary; and Dr. Benjamin A. Gould and Dr. Edward J. Forster treated the company to interesting reminiscences of the early members. The President read a poem written for the occasion by Miss Ellen Brackett of Brooklyn, New York, and also a poem contributed by Mr. John C. Cobb of Brookline. Harvey N. Shepard, in a few happily chosen words, brought the occasion to a close, responding to the sentiment, “To the Future of Our Society,—may the sacred fire of Charity kindled by its founders receive the constant and watchful care of its members; and when the work of the coming century is reviewed, may the record be a record of increased usefulness and of faithful stewardship.”

The members, in departing, received the new certificate of membership prepared in the form of the original certificate issued at the time of the incorporation of the Society.

OLD BOSTON IN 1792.

BY SAMUEL FOSTER MCCLEARY.

AGREEABLY to your request, Mr. President, I have prepared some desultory notes on the appearance and condition of the town of Boston about one hundred years ago, when the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society was formed. Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale has recently contributed some interesting articles to "The Atlantic Monthly," in which he depicts a New England boyhood about seventy years ago. As my age is the equal of his, and as we both were Boston boys, contemporaries at school and college, it is quite natural that our descriptions of the same places and persons should fall into similar phrase; but it is due to myself to state that my notes were wholly prepared before I saw either of his charming narratives.

To convey an adequate idea of the appearance and social condition of Boston one hundred years ago would occupy many evenings, and would require many pages of manuscript. These topics are doubtless familiar to many of you, and the most I hope to do is simply to recall some of the interesting features of the period in question.

Houses. — The town of Boston one hundred years ago was composed for the most part of wooden houses, compactly gathered at the northern end of the peninsula, whence they extended in an irregular manner around the northern base of Beacon Hill, and skirted the present Washington and Tremont Streets towards the Neck.

By a singular custom, the houses generally stood with one end on the street, with a garden or court in the immediate front,

which was entered through a gate. This mode of construction was probably adopted in order that the principal windows of the houses should not be subject to the curious observation of the neighbors, which the narrowness of the streets had a tendency to provoke.

Here and there in the older parts of the town, but more frequently on the outskirts where the space was ample, there were houses more pretentious in size and appearance, with gardens surrounding them; and occasionally there was found an edifice of brick or of stone, the former supplied by the brick-yards on the Neck, and the latter quarried from the surface at Quincy.

One of the most noted of these houses, which remained till the middle of the nineteenth century, was the Sir William Phips house, at the corner of Salem and Charter Streets. It was built of brick, was three stories in height, and stood in the midst of ample grounds surrounded by numerous trees. Cotton Mather states that Phips was a poor boy, who dreamed that he would one day be rich and own a house in Boston. If this be true he realized his dream, for he acquired a fortune from a sunken treasure ship and built this house on Salem Street. After the battle of Bunker Hill, the temporary quarters on Prince Street being overcrowded, General Gage seized this house, which was then unoccupied, for a military hospital, to which, among others, the wounded Pitcairn was taken, and there he died.

This house was occupied in 1792-1800 by Rev. William Walter, Rector of Christ Church, who was my great-grandfather. He used to point out to visitors the indelible stains of Pitcairn's blood upon the wooden floor.

Another famous mansion stood at the corner of Garden-Court and Prince Streets. It was built by William Clark, but was occupied by Sir Charles H. Frankland, the Collector of the Port under Governor Shirley. In this house, as well as at his elegant estate at Hopkinton, Sir Charles resided, with Agnes Surriage, the beautiful barmaid of Marblehead, whom he did not make his lawful wife till she had rescued him from the ruins of Lisbon at the time of the memorable earthquake. In its interior arrangement and finish this house was a marvel indeed.

In richness of ornamentation, few houses of the present day could equal its elegance.

Near this house, on Garden-Court Street, stood the brick mansion of Governor Thomas Hutchinson. This, too, was an imposing edifice, which is fully described in Lydia Maria Child's story of "The Rebels." This is the house which was attacked and sacked by the mob on August 26, 1765, on account of the obnoxious Stamp Act. The Governor's library and manuscripts and all his personal effects were destroyed, — so that he had to appear at the General Court, the next day, without his gown or wig.

Another noted brick building was the Province House, which stood back from Washington Street, nearly opposite Milk Street. It was surmounted with a cupola, which bore upon its top the copper figure of an Indian, with a crystal eye which used to flash in the sunlight; his hands held an extended bow, from which an arrow was about to spring. The schoolboys had a legend that the Indian discharged the arrow when he *heard* the Old South clock strike one, and many a stupid youth, including myself, has watched in vain for that arrow's flight.

The most imposing mansion in the town was built of stone, — the well remembered residence of Governor Hancock. It need not be here described. It is greatly to the discredit of the Commonwealth that this celebrated house is now nothing but a sacred memory. It should have been preserved, as recommended by Governor Nathaniel P. Banks, for the town residence of the Governors of the State. Upon a portion of its extensive grounds the new State House was built in 1799. In the immediate front was the Common, then used as a pasture for cows, whose owners drove them thither in the morning and generally removed them before night. The story is said to be authentic which states that, when Madam Hancock had unexpected guests, she directed her man to proceed to the Common, and milk any likely cow, in order to supply her bountiful table.

It may be owing to this anecdote that the blue Staffordshire plates, made early in this century, which display a picture of the new State House with the cows in the foreground, are much more valuable than those representing the same edifice with a horse and chaise on Beacon Street.

The only other house on Beacon Street below the Hancock House was the large brick mansion between Willow and Spruce Streets, which was once occupied by Harrison Gray Otis. At the time of which I speak, it was far from the centre of the town. One winter, after a severe snow-storm at night, the passage through the street was rendered quite difficult, and consequently there was no milk for breakfast at the Otis mansion. The cows did not go upon the Common in winter, so the happy device of Mistress Hancock could not be followed. Mr. Otis, having summoned his coachman, asked him to go to his milkman down town for some milk. To this proposition the coachman demurred, saying, "My services were not engaged for such work." "Indeed," said Mr. Otis, with surprise; "pray tell me what your valuable services comprise." The coachman stated that his duties were confined to the stable, the coach, and the horses, and that he had nothing to do with the interior affairs of the house. "Very well," replied Mr. Otis, "put the horses in the carriage, drive to the front door and there await my orders." The discomfited coachman withdrew and obeyed, and was then told to drive one of the maids, with a pitcher, to the house of the milkman, and return with a supply of milk, — which was finally accomplished, with some difficulty and a deal of consequent trouble to the coachman.

Topography. — At the time I am attempting to describe there was, with the exception of Charlestown Bridge, then recently completed, no access by land to the town other than the narrow neck of the peninsula; and across this the sea was sometimes swept in a violent gale. There was no Charles Street, for the river flowed over the lower part of the Common. At the north the water reached the foot of Pitts Street and Governor Gore's garden, and extended at the east up to the site of the Adams statue. The whole of the South Cove was a wide expanse of water. Within my own period, I have caught flounders on South Street, at the intersection of Beach Street.

The central and lower parts of Franklin Street were simply a quagmire, a portion of which Joseph Barrell, then a resident on Summer Street, drained and converted into a fish-pond.

The whole of the Back Bay was under water. Once in my boyhood I skated through the ice, and was nearly drowned, where Arlington Street now exists.

Since then the change has been marvellous indeed. Few stories in fairy lore can equal this transformation. The State of Maine, in return for the protection and care bestowed on her infancy by the parent Commonwealth, can truthfully claim that from her abundant forests she has furnished the foundation of all the wealth and beauty which now distinguish the fairest portion of the metropolis of Massachusetts.

The Washington Gardens, enclosed with a high brick wall, extended from the site of St. Paul's Church to West Street, with the Swan House in the centre. Here was a famous promenade, with entertainments of various kinds. The Swan House was subsequently removed to Fourth Street, at City Point, where it now stands and is used as a public house.

Beacon Hill was crowned with the monument, whose eagle and tablets are preserved in the State House. Bunker Hill was an unimproved pasture.

Churches. — When one looks at the old pictures of Boston, he is at once struck with the multitude of church spires. But the truth is, our fathers were an eminently religious people. Their amusements were few, — there were no Sunday papers or bicycles to absorb their attention, — so the social element in their natures could only be gratified by meeting at church on Sunday, or at the public service on Thursday. Two ponderous sermons on Sunday usually sent them early and sleepy to bed.

The Old North Church which stood on North Square had been taken down by the British for firewood; but the New Brick, its successor, with the figure of a cockerel for a vane, stood in Hanover Street, and was under the pastorate of Rev. John Lathrop.

Brattle Street Church was under the charge of Rev. Peter Thacher, who had been literally purchased from the parish of Malden for £300.

There were ten other churches existing at this period, which I have not time to describe. Hollis Street Church was a small

wooden edifice with two towers, which was removed on a raft to East Braintree, where it sheltered another congregation.

These churches, with the exception of King's Chapel and Brattle Street, presented somewhat forlorn interiors. They were severely simple in furniture, the pews were high and straight-backed, with no carpets on the floors, and often no cushions on the seats. There were no stoves or furnaces in the buildings. Hence it was the custom in the winter for families to purchase foot-stoves, which were filled at home with hot coals, and were carried by hand to and from the pews. These stoves, together with the warmth of the doctrines, kept the hearers tolerably comfortable during the service. The congregation rose and remained standing during the prayer, and their seats, provided with hinges, rose with them, and were slammed down at the conclusion of the prayer with a force which emphasized its *Amen*. After the introduction of a choir, at the time of singing the last hymn, the congregation rose and turned their backs upon the pulpit and gazed at the singers. When the meeting was dismissed, the male members went out first, and gathered in groups on the sidewalk to see the females pass out; the head of the family then secured the members of his household, and they all walked home together.

Streets. — The streets of Boston were quite narrow and irregular; the roadway covered the entire width of the street, no sidewalks being known till 1795. In order to prevent encroachments on the buildings, condemned cannon were planted, with the muzzles up, at the corners of the business streets. A few of the principal streets were lighted in 1792, the town attending to the lighting where individuals provided the lamps. As the people dreaded a conflagration more than the epidemic which then prevailed, each householder was required to own two leather buckets, with his name painted thereon, and capacious fire-bags for the removal of valuables. These buckets were usually hung in the front entry of the house, and upon an alarm of fire the owner seized his buckets and hastened to the scene of the calamity. There two lines were formed, under the direction of the fire-wardens, from the burning building to the nearest

pump. The full buckets were passed by hand through one line up to the fire, where they were discharged, and were then returned through the other line to the pump to be replenished. Upon the introduction of fire engines, water was supplied to them by a similar bucket service, for the use of suction hose was then unknown. The town supplemented this supply of buckets by a few of its own, which were hung upon racks and drawn by hand to the fire. Of course, at the close of the fire the buckets were somewhat mixed, and it required hours of search sometimes before an anxious man recovered his property. This comparatively impotent system was in vogue long after engines were introduced, as a kind of auxiliary force. In addition to these bucket carriages, ladders and hooks with long poles were kept attached to the outside of convenient buildings in the thickly settled portions of the town.

At the period in question, the houses and stores were not numbered. The public inns and shops had special signs or other designations, which were seen and known by all who passed. Many of these remained to a recent date. I remember well the "Bunch of Grapes,"¹ "The Blue Ball," the painting of the "Good Samaritan," which ornamented the front of the store of Brewers, Stevens, and Cushing, on Washington Street, nearly opposite Joy's Building; also the famous painting of "St. George and the Dragon," which stood above the entrance of the Marlborough Hotel; also the pictures of frigates and naval engagements which decorated the sailor boarding-houses on Ann Street.

Stages. — As Boston was an isolated peninsula, travel to and beyond the suburban towns was effected by stages, which, stopping at the various inns along the route, contributed by this enforced patronage to the support of those auxiliaries to public travel. One hundred years ago it took eight days to reach New York by stage, and thirteen days to go to Philadelphia. The fare per passenger to New York was £3 sterling, — fourteen pounds of baggage taken gratis, but one hundred and fifty pounds paid the rate of one passenger.

¹ This was a well known tavern designation in Shakespeare's time. "T was in the Bunch of Grapes where you have a delight to sit." — *Measure for Measure*, Act 2, Scene 1.

Before the construction of Charlestown Bridge, in 1786, passengers for Salem and Portsmouth started from Charlestown, being conveyed to this point over the ferry.

The Post Office was located at the present corner of Cornhill and Washington Street. Postage was very high, — $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents per single letter to Philadelphia, and 25 cents to New York; the lowest rate for a letter was $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents. Consequently letters were seldom written till a private opportunity of conveyance could be had.

So when any one, a stranger or otherwise, contemplated a journey in any direction, he was expected to carry and deliver any letters directed thither by his friends or neighbors. News travelled slowly in those days. Information of the death of Washington at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799, reached Augusta, Maine, on January 1, 1800. News of the battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, did not reach Philadelphia till three weeks afterwards.

Inns. — Next to its churches, Boston was noted for the great number of its inns or places of public resort. These were frequented by the inhabitants after dark, and were often centres of political interest and discussion. Some of the most famous inns were : —

“The Bunch of Grapes,” at the northwest corner of State and Kilby Streets. This was the best punch-house in town.

“The Royal Exchange,” at the southwest corner of State and Exchange Streets. Here began the altercation which resulted in the duel on the Common, in 1725, in which Benjamin Woodbridge, aged twenty, was killed by Henry Phillips.

“The American Coffee House,” near 66 State Street, where James Otis was attacked and rendered insane by a party of British officers.

“Cromwell’s Head,” on School Street, where Colonel Washington lodged when on a visit to Governor Shirley in 1756, in relation to the French war.

“The Hancock House,” in Corn Court, then in an open space. It was formerly called Brazier’s Inn, after the landlady who kept it. Here the Boston Tea-party was formed. Here Talleyrand and La Fayette lodged.

"The Sun Tavern," on Dock and Faneuil Hall Squares, where the British officers had their headquarters.

"The Green Dragon," on Union Street, north of Hanover Street, which was the resort of the patriots Adams, Hancock, and Revere.

These taverns, as did others, derived their names from the especial emblems or signs which were affixed to, or projected from, the buildings.

The Common. — A century ago the limits of the Common extended as far as Mason Street, where a schoolhouse and a gun-house were built upon its grounds. On the Park Street side there stood the Granary, the Almshouse, and the Workhouse. The Tremont Street Mall was just opened and used as a public walk. It had a wooden outer fence, and an inner fence to keep out the cows which enjoyed the exclusive possession of the centre Common. The Park Street and the Beacon Street Malls were opened at a later date.

The present Charles Street side was open to the water which washed the bases of the hills near the Pond. There were but three trees in the body of the Common, — one near the Pond, and the others nearer Park Street. Adino Paddock's elms stretched in an unbroken line from a point near School Street along the Tremont Street Mall as far as the present Tremont Theatre, whence the town continued a double row of elms turning to the right, skirting Foster's pasture and the burial ground across the path now extending to the Providence Station. These last trees are flourishing to-day.

While the cows were allowed upon the Common, the Selectmen appointed, from time to time, a keeper of the town bull, which animal, as the name implies, was owned by the town and became a source of ample revenue, sufficient at least to pay the salary of his keeper, who was responsible for the good care of the animal. But the town bull disappeared long before the cows were removed from the Common, in 1830. And now, instead of maintaining a bull, the city supports a Mayor at the public crib.

Apparel. — The costumes of the inhabitants, during the latter part of the eighteenth and the first part of the nineteenth century, were picturesque. The men wore small-clothes, with top-boots, or shoes and buckles. Even the boys in those days wore small-clothes and cocked hats. The well-to-do citizens wore richly embroidered waistcoats and colored silk or velvet body-coats with ample cuffs and capacious pockets. They wore lace ruffles on their wrists. But this costume was gradually yielding, under democratic ideas, to more modest apparel, and it disappeared, never to return, in the general gloom which enveloped the country on the death of Washington in 1799. Henceforward the long pantaloons and round hats of the French Revolution became gradually the universal mode. The hair was gathered into a queue behind, and tied with black ribbon. The faces of the men were clean shaven, and the women wore powder on their hair. A man with a moustache could be surely set down as a foreigner.

The shops of the hair-dressers were the busiest in the town, and were the centres of news and of gossip. A famous barber was Robert New, who kept his shop in Scollay Building, which then extended as far as Hanover Street. His customers were continually making jokes upon his name, and asking, "Is there anything new?" "Is there nothing new?" Hence, when his twin boys were born, he named one "Something," and the other "Nothing."

Small-clothes and cocked hats continued to be the style well into the present century. My father was married, in 1819, in black satin small-clothes, with silk stockings and buckled shoes. This suit I have now at home. He sported his queue tied with a silk ribbon, and wore a white cravat with a ruffled shirt after I was six years old. So I recollect them well.

The town was so compactly built that there seemed to be no occasion for public carriages or hacks. Some gentlemen kept their own chaises; but as a general rule the belles and beaux walked to and from the churches, balls, and funerals. The ministers kept their gowns and bands at home, and walked on Sundays in full array to and from their places of worship.

At the period of our survey, the inhabitants of Boston were

for the most part poor. After emerging from the war, they had many debts and taxes, which a depreciated currency could not liquidate. But they were in a hopeful condition, inasmuch as the new Constitution of the United States had been adopted, and they realized that they had a country which was wisely governed, with systems of economics and finance which would gradually bring them relief from the confusion and disorder which had hitherto prevailed.

Hence the residents were obliged to be frugal in their habits, for the market was not overstocked with provisions or with comforts. Meats were scarce and high, but the waters of the harbor—then unpolluted with the contents of drains or by chemicals—yielded abundance of fish. When a joint of meat was purchased in the summer, it was usually hung by a rope down the well to keep it cool and sweet, and was drawn up when needed for use.

The floors of the houses were innocent of carpets, but they were nicely scrubbed and often fancifully sanded. Here and there was seen a rug or mat, made of discarded garments or of the remnants of a new dress. Their wood for fuel was obtained from loaded carts at the Haymarket, near Frog Lane, or at the Granary on Tremont Street, whither it was brought by oxen after a journey of several days.

Currency. — The currency at this period was in a chaotic condition. The States, assuming the right, had been coining copper cents for several years. Massachusetts alone had issued seventy thousand cents. But the new Constitution intrusted the exclusive power of coinage to the United States. The Mint, however, was not established at Philadelphia till 1793. There were only two banks in Boston, the Massachusetts and the Union. The recent experiment with Continental bills made men cautious of paper money. But trade, which had recently made successful ventures to the West Indies by small vessels, had poured into New England a flood of Spanish coins, which furnished nine tenths of all the specie used here. There were no savings banks, so the money was kept at home, usually in an old teapot in the cupboard, or a worsted stocking in a drawer. When carried

upon the person it was deposited loosely in the pockets, or more often put into a canvas bag, tied up with a string, and carried in the outer coat. Shot-bags were often utilized for this purpose: hence the familiar expressions, "Who 'll pay the shot?" "I 'll pay the shot."

As the mint coined at first only dollars and half-dollars, which were absorbed largely for export, this Spanish fractional currency became the circulating medium for many years, extending well into twenty-five years of the present century.

The smallest coin was "a four pence ha'penny," or $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents; the next was a "ninepence," or $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; the next was a "quarter," or 25 cents. A shilling, for which there was no distinctive coin, was $16\frac{2}{3}$ cents; three shillings were equal to half a dollar. Hence mercantile transactions had a peculiar language, — "two and three pence" ($37\frac{1}{2}$ cents); "three and nine" ($62\frac{1}{2}$ cents); "four and six" (75 cents). Small purchases were very advantageous to the dealer, for he not only made a profit on his sales, but on the currency received therefor; for a "fourpence" ($6\frac{1}{4}$ cents) would only pass for six cents, and a "ninepence" ($12\frac{1}{2}$ cents) would only pass for twelve cents; but four fourpences or two ninepences were good for a quarter. The purchasing power of a dollar in those days was very great, hence wages were correspondingly low.

Most housekeepers attended to their own households, but a good domestic could be had for \$1.00 or \$1.25 per week, and a first class cook could command nine shillings (\$1.50).

Another coin was often interjected into this fractional currency, which annoyed both buyer and seller. This was also a Spanish coin called a "pistareen." It had the same visage on one side as the quarter, but was a trifle smaller, and on the reverse it was only distinguished from the quarter by the absence of the "pillars of Hercules," which are borne on all other Spanish coins. The value of the piece was 18 cents. It was a provoking coin, for, on account of its close resemblance to the quarter, it was not only taken by mistake, but was often passed with fraudulent intent.

Conflagrations. — The town, being largely composed of wooden buildings, was visited by several destructive conflagrations. One of the most disastrous occurred on Friday, April 20, 1787, when more than one hundred buildings, sixty of which were dwellings, were totally destroyed. Over £2,600 were raised in the country at large for the relief of Boston. General La Fayette contributed £250.

The distress occasioned by this calamity led to the formation and subsequent incorporation of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, in order to provide immediate relief to future sufferers by fire. A substantial fund was provided by the benevolent men and women of Boston and vicinity to be managed by Trustees. The income of this fund has been devoted for one hundred years to the purposes of its organization, and also, under the additional Act of 1822, to the assistance of such other benevolent organizations as the Trustees may annually elect. With such authority it is expected that the usefulness of this institution may be continued for many years to come.

THEN AND NOW;
OR,
SCIENCE AND OUR DEFIANCE.

BY ELLEN BRACKETT.

I.

In the "good old times," when a fire broke out,
The men from all the country about,
Came running with bucket and bed-key and bag,
And their strength did not fail, nor their courage flag,
Till the fire was quenched
And the house was drenched;
Full many a home was richer that day,
For some of the plunder carried away,
For there were rogues even then, they say,
In spite of the "good old times"
We read of in nursery rhymes.

II.

Think of the change in the methods we see!
No spilling of buckets, no bag and no key.
We wake in the night. The house is on fire.
We merely connect the telephone wire,
The button is pressed,
And they do the rest.
For whether it be by a hand grenade,
Or by electricity well conveyed,
The fire is out and the danger stayed,
For the times are great
Which we celebrate.

III.

But there are some fires where science fails,—
The fire of the heart that never quails,
The fire of eye, the fire of tongue,
The fire of youth that keeps us young,
And we to-night,
Who have fought the fight,
And have kept these beacons well aglow,
This Fire Society surely can show
That there are flames, though burning low,
Which science can flout
But not put out!

FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

M. C. F. S.

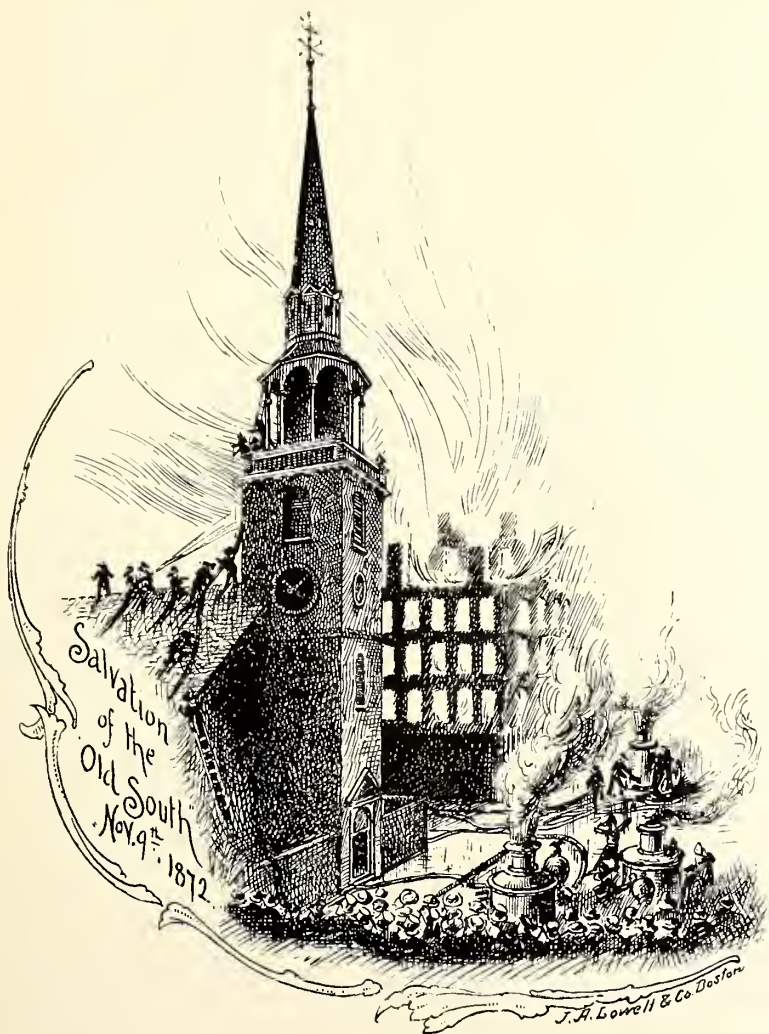
BY JOHN C. COBB.

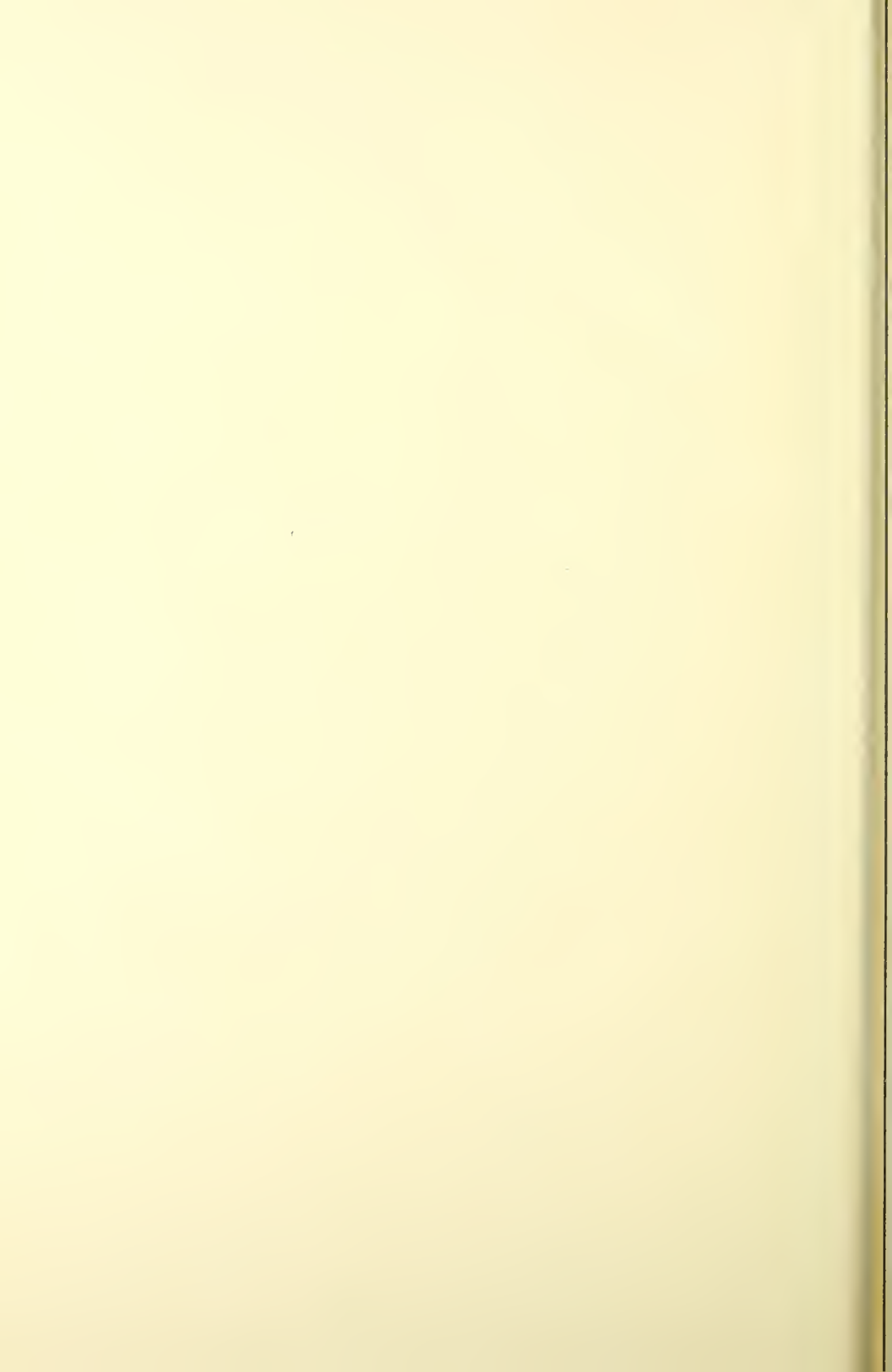
A CENTURY'S passed, and how changed are the times,
Since our grandfathers joined, for the good of them all,
To share the results of the fire fiend's fury,
And shoulder to shoulder rushed forth at the call!
How their veins must have throbbed
At the clang of the bell
As they went to the fire!

Now we sit in our homes on a cold, stormy night,
And calmly we count up the business-like gong
That tells us our store is becoming but ashes:
We figure our profit, — then sleep deep and long.
How little we care for
The fire brigade
As it goes to the fire!

The policeman stands now with a rope and a billy,
And keeps back all those who assistance would lend.
Then — rushing and pushing and swashing and crashing —
They saved what they could for themselves and their friend.
I see in my mind's eye
My grandfather's hat,
Which he got at a fire.







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